SPECIAL TACTICS

ESCORT DETAIL

VENUE VIP PROTECTION

VENUE, SPECIAL EVENT AND WALKING SECURITY FOR 3-4 PERSON DETAILS

DEVELOPED BY SPECIAL OPS & GOVERNMENT AGENCY VETERANS

ESCORT DETAIL

VENUE VIP PROTECTION

VENUE, SPECIAL EVENT AND WALKING SECURITY FOR 3-4 PERSON DETAILS

SPECIAL TACTICS™

Special Tactics, LLC

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To those who have gone before us, the living and the fallen

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Larger Picture of VIP Protection

This book focuses on one aspect of VIP protection operations: venue security. As we will discuss, venue security is only one piece in the larger puzzle of protection work and it is impossible to study and understand venue security without at least a general understanding of protection operations as a whole. This first section provides an overview of the complete Special Tactics course of instruction on VIP protection in order to offer a context for the specific tactics, techniques and procedures explained in the rest of the book that relate specifically to venue security.

VIP protection, sometimes referred to as executive protection or dignitary protection, is one of the most challenging and complex types of security operations. There are many reasons for this, including the large number of variables and uncertainties that a protection detail may have to deal with, the wide range of skills and activities associated with protection work, and the difficulties of dealing with a VIP who likely has little experience with or understanding of dangerous situations. Therefore, the challenge of protection work should not be taken lightly and it is critical to seek out the most capable and highly-trained people when forming a protective detail.

This book focuses on conducting operations with a protective detail consisting of 3-4 personnel or what we call the “escort detail.” While an escort detail is large and more capable than a single-person (singleton) or two-person detail, it is still small compared to a full protective detail of 6+ personnel. This means that the escort detail will be facing increased risk and detail personnel will need to assume multiple roles/responsibilities. In the event of an attack, the escort detail also has limited manpower with which to respond. It is also important to note that some sections of this book cover tactics for one or two people. This is necessary because when operating an escort detail, some personnel might need to remain with the motorcade, leaving only 1-2 detail members on the ground at the venue with the VIP. This makes protection operations at the venue even more potentially dangerous.

Why Employ an Escort Detail?

Why should we employ an escort detail for protection operations if it is so dangerous and challenging? There are a number of possible answers to that question but the simplest and most common answer is because there is no other option. While very high-profile individuals and politicians have the money and resources to employ a full-sized security detail, most others do not. Many well-known celebrities, important business executives and senior leaders can only employ a single bodyguard. Therefore, a 3-4 person escort detail could even be considered large in terms of the vast majority of protection work that goes on around the world.

The escort detail is the smallest detail that can provide a reasonable level of security in a high-threat situation. Therefore, even if a VIP's resources are limited, he/she should strive to employ a 3-4 person security force, especially when faced with a specific threat or elevated threat level. Members of state and local government, senior business executives, religious leaders and other public figures are a few examples of people who might need to employ an escort detail. In some cases, the personnel for this detail may be drawn from local law enforcement. In other cases, the detail may be members of a private security company.

Another reason for employing a small escort detail might relate to the constraints associated with a "low-visibility" or "low-profile" scenario. In some cases, an individual might want protection but not want to draw attention to himself/herself. It is difficult to be discrete with a four-car motorcade. When it is critical to maintain a low profile, the only option might be to employ a smaller escort detail. Therefore, there is an additional demand for escort detail protection tactics from those conducting low-visibility, high-risk operations overseas. While this book does not specifically address the additional factors and constraints associated with low-visibility or low-profile operations, the same general principles of protection still apply.

Phases of Protection Operations

The security mission never stops. If a detail is protecting a VIP against a serious threat, they will need to provide security 24-hours per-day and 7-days per week. It is impossible to predict where and when an attack might take place. Even if the VIP cannot afford round-the-clock security, there must still be plans and measures in place to maintain security at all times. Therefore as time passes, security operations generally fall into three phases or categories: site security (including compound, building, office, home etc.), mobile security and venue security.

The logic of these three phases or categories is fairly straightforward. When the VIP is at home, the detail must still protect the VIP against threats but the nature of the security work will most likely focus on obstacles like gates and locks, alert/alarm systems, cameras, guard shifts, fixed sentries, roving patrols and pre-planned responses to possible attacks. The tactics, training, skills and equipment associated with site, compound or home security are all quite specialized and specific to that particular phase of the security effort. They may not carry over into other types or phases of security operations.

The next phase of security is mobile security. When the VIP decides to go somewhere, he/she will most likely travel there by car. Providing security for the VIP along the route to his/her destination involves organizing a motorcade, planning a route, developing and rehearsing specific procedures for the VIP's arrival to and departure from various locations. In addition, the motorcade might come under attack at any point during the operation. The motorcade must establish standard operating procedures for responding to various types of attacks along the route.

When the VIP arrives at his/her destination, some of the detail members must be prepared to dismount and accompany the VIP on foot. We call this phase of the operation venue security. While there are an almost unlimited number of activities the VIP might be conducting at the destination, some activities are more common than others. Such activities might include a meet-and-greet with another VIP, delivering a speech from a podium or stage, shaking hands along a fence line etc. While moving about on foot, the VIP will also likely have to pass through certain types of structures, utilize stairwells and elevators. Keeping the VIP safe in all of these cases is the objective of venue security.

Once the VIP accomplishes his/her objectives at the venue, the motorcade will depart and return home. The trip back falls into the category of mobile security and the detail resumes site security (either compound, building, office or home) once the motorcade arrives safely. In summary, security operations can be divided into three phases or types, each one posing very unique challenges for the security detail.

In addition to these three general categories or phases, there are other special cases or topics that relate to protection. For example, a protection detail must learn specialized Close Quarters Battle (CQB) tactics and offensive/defensive empty-hand tactics that are specific to protection work. The realm of VIP protection operational planning, intelligence and advance force operations is also large enough to warrant its own category in a training curriculum.

This book focuses exclusively on venue security, or the phase of the protection operation that begins when the VIP reaches his/her destination and leaves the motorcade on foot. Special Tactics has published or plans to publish other books and online courses covering the other phases and aspects of VIP protection including site security (compound, building, office, home), mobile security, protection CQB, protection empty-hand tactics, protection planning, intelligence and advance operations.

Sizes of Protective Details

As already discussed, this book focuses on what we term the escort detail of 3-4 personnel. The escort detail is the smallest detail that can provide a reasonable level of security against an elevated threat, around the clock. The additional personnel offer the detail more flexibility and the option to employ supporting assets like an Advance or a Shadow/Follow Car. The additional personnel also allow for the establishments of shifts to provide 24-hour coverage, though with only 3-4 people the shift schedule will prove to be taxing. Finally, the additional personnel offer the ability to absorb casualties and still continue operations.

The smallest size detail, either a singleton or two-person detail, has almost none of these advantages which makes it a much more dangerous option when facing an elevated threat. This is particularly relevant when it comes to sustaining casualties. If a singleton or two-person detail takes a casualty, it becomes essentially combat ineffective and will have great difficulty continuing to provide protection for the VIP. However, despite these dangers, in some cases there may not be additional personnel, resources or funding available to field more than one or two personnel on a detail. A singleton detail is better than nothing and a two-person detail is substantially better than a singleton detail.

In the ideal scenario, the VIP has enough resources to field a full detail. A 5-person detail is the smallest size detail that can be considered a "full" detail in terms of capability and protection level. However, in most cases a full detail will include at least 6 personnel and sometimes more. A full detail is able to provide one or more Advance personnel and a 2-3 vehicle motorcade. A full detail may include assets like counter-sniper support or an additional vehicle carrying a heavily-armed Counter Assault Team or CAT. Given that most established, full-detail tactics are generally employed by U.S. Government Agencies to protect high-level officials, Special Tactics does not publish any digital or online training materials covering full-detail tactics due to their complexity and other considerations that necessitate in-person training. However, Special Tactics does offer full-detail protection training in-person and in printed form.

Another important factor regarding the size of protection details relates to how tactics and procedures change as the size of the detail changes. When it comes to certain categories of tactics such as Close Quarters Battle (CQB) tactics or small unit tactics, procedures remain relatively consistent regardless of the size of the element. This is less the case with protection operations. The procedures for conducting simple activities can vary considerably based on the size of the detail. Even adding an additional person to a 3-person detail can significantly change tactical procedures. This is another factor that makes protection work particularly complex and why it is important to practice working with different sized details.

The Objective of Protection Operations

The most critical and obvious objective of protection operations is protecting the VIP from death or injury. However, the job of a protection detail does not end there. The detail is also responsible for protecting the VIP from embarrassment and harassment, particularly in public settings. In addition, a good security detail helps the VIP avoid as many inconveniences and frustrations as possible. These objectives can be difficult to accomplish all at the same time and can sometimes be conflicting or contradictory. This is another factor that makes protection work particularly challenging.

VIPs, public figures and politicians can stir emotions when they meet others or make appearances. These emotions can end up causing embarrassment. There are many ways such a scenario might play out. For example, angry bystanders who do not like the VIP might yell insults and throw fluids or projectiles at the VIP. In some cases, people might be throwing harmless materials, ridicule the VIP or dirty the VIP's clothing. In other cases, they may be throwing things that could cause injury. Bystanders might throw eggs at the motorcade, perform profane or indecent acts or cause damage to property. The security detail must try to stop these activities or mitigate their effects as much as possible.

In some cases, it might be appropriate for the security detail to physically intervene and control people who are causing embarrassment. However, such aggressive action is not always feasible or justified. In some cases embarrassing activities might be illegal, in other cases, the actions of bystanders might be protected as free-speech. In some cases it would not be appropriate for the detail to intervene but local law enforcement might be able to step in to stop illegal activities such as indecent exposure or disturbing the peace. The detail must understand the complex nature of these factors to choose the most appropriate and effective response.

In some cases, the security detail itself might end up causing more embarrassment for the VIP than troublesome bystanders. For example, suppose there is a rowdy individual who is yelling insults at the VIP and moving closer and closer to the walking formation in an aggressive manner. At a certain point the detail may have to step in and make physical contact with the rowdy individual to keep the individual away from the VIP. If one of the detail members gets into a physical struggle, starts throwing punches, and hits the rowdy individual in the face knocking him down this could cause a major public relations problem for the VIP.

Even if aggressive force was justified from a security perspective, it is likely that another bystander captured the event using a phone camera. Videos can be edited to only include the aggressive actions taken by the security detail. The story can be framed in a way that makes the aggressor look like a victim and casts the VIP and the security detail in a bad light. The fallout and embarrassment from such an incident can be much worse than anything the rowdy bystander might have done. It is therefore critical for the security detail to understand how to best navigate such complex dilemmas.

While the primary concern must always be the physical safety of the VIP, a good security detail knows how to resolve potentially embarrassing situations in a way that is least likely to cause negative fallout for the VIP. For example, instead of punching a threatening individual in the face, there are other defensive tactics that can effectively accomplish the objective but appear much less menacing, such as a shoulder takedown or redirect technique.

Sometimes fans or supporters can be as much of an embarrassment threat as opponents. Adoring fans might mob the VIP, try to touch or hug him/her. When shaking hands along a fence line, an overzealous supporter might refuse to let go of the VIP’s hand. Such events can be embarrassing or uncomfortable for the VIP and it is up to the security detail to resolve such incidents as quickly and quietly as possible while remaining courteous and polite at all times. If the detail overreacts and ends up hurting or offending a fan, that can cause problems for the VIP, especially if the incident is caught on video.

The detail must also protect the VIP from embarrassment or mishaps caused by random environmental factors. With all the security detail has to worry about and focus on, it is easy for someone to accidentally close the VIP’s coat in the car door, step on the VIP’s heel, bump into or trip the VIP etc. If it is raining or windy or if there are hazards on the ground, that can cause additional, unexpected environmental challenges for the detail. In short, the security detail cannot afford to ignore even the most trivial factors while maintaining primary focus on the most important objective: the physical security of the VIP.

Dealing with the VIP

In some cases, dealing with the VIP can be just as challenging as dealing with potential threats. Every VIP is different and it is up to the security detail to understand the personality and individual quirks of the person they are protecting. Some VIPs can be very difficult to work with. They might say that the security detail makes them feel constrained or uncomfortable. They may defy the security detail and take reckless risks that put everyone in danger. In some cases the security detail might even get reprimanded by the VIP for nothing more than doing their jobs thoroughly. However, the security detail will also get blamed if something goes wrong and the VIP gets hurt. Balancing such challenging, contradictory demands can make protection work much more complicated and difficult.

In other cases, the VIP might be paranoid and extremely demanding, calling on the security detail constantly and reporting imagined threats. Such a VIP might reprimand the security detail for the smallest, perceived mistake or infraction. Fear, panic and paranoia might cause the VIP to behave erratically or irrationally, making him/her harder to protect. When dealing with this sort of VIP, the detail must not let the VIP's behavior cause distractions that jeopardize the primary objective. At the same time, the detail personnel must do their best to comfort the VIP and make him/her feel as safe and reassured as possible.

Some VIPs might have former security, military or law enforcement experience and have the overzealous mindset of, "I can take care of myself." While it might seem that VIPs with tactical experience would be easier to protect, this is not always the case. The VIP is not part of the security detail and should stand back and let the security detail personnel perform their jobs without interference. Dealing with a VIP who thinks he/she is smarter or more qualified to run the security detail than the actual detail personnel can be particularly challenging.

These are just a few common personality issues the detail might encounter when dealing with a VIP. The biggest problem with all of these issues is that the VIP is ultimately the boss or the client in one way or another. Therefore, the detail has to find a way to make the VIP happy and do what the VIP wants, which as with the cases above, can contradict best security practices. It is important for the security detail to understand their exact relationship with the VIP. For example, if the VIP hires a private security detail, he/she can fire the detail at any time. Alternatively, politicians may have less control when it comes to firing or reprimanding their security personnel. As a security professional, it is important to know who the real client is and recognize the challenges of balancing the client's satisfaction with safety concerns.

Who This Book is For and How to Use It

This book will of course be useful to security professionals who need to conduct protection operations with limited resources, limiting them to a detail of only 3-4 people. However, given that the fundamental principles of protection operations are applicable to many different areas of tactics and combat, the book can also be useful to anyone who is looking to increase their tactical knowledge or capability including law enforcement officers, military personnel or responsible citizens who want to keep themselves, their families and communities safe.

Law enforcement officers are sometimes required to provide security details for local government officials or public figures, or in some other cases law enforcement officers need to work in coordination with protection details or private security companies. Military personnel likewise sometimes need to provide security details for high-ranking officers or other VIPs visiting a base or area of operations. Civilians may also find themselves in need of knowledge about security procedures, either to provide their own security or to evaluate the quality of security companies they hire. Not all the information in this book might apply to every one of these individuals, but the general knowledge and concepts have applications to many aspects of tactics and self-defense.

Just reading this book will not make you more effective as a security professional or security detail member. You must practice the techniques in this book over and over as part of a more complete tactical training, weapons training and fitness program in order to truly enhance your combat performance. While you can read this book from cover-to-cover for background, you will find that some sections are repetitive which is intended to make each section of the book self-contained. A more practical way to use the book is to reference the sections that are most relevant to you in the context of a larger training program. The book is designed to complement other books from Special Tactics as well as online courses and in-person training. Reading this book is only the beginning to becoming proficient at the art and science of protection.

INTRODUCTION
The Four Pillars of Survival

The "four pillars" of survival are proper mindset, situational awareness, skill proficiency and physical fitness. These pillars form the basis for success in all combat situations. This manual is intended not only to teach specific techniques, but rather to increase the reader's actual chances of survival and success in a real-life emergency. An expert marksman who is not mentally prepared for the stress of combat and not ready to employ lethal force can lose to an untrained adversary. Lack of situational awareness, even for a moment, can cause an experienced fighter to fall victim to unskilled enemies. Therefore, any combat training program must rest on the following four pillars.

Proper Mindset

Proper mindset is the most critical of the four pillars. In the simplest terms, people with the proper mindset devote significant time and energy to protecting themselves and their loved ones from the worst-case scenario. Many people will learn to shoot a pistol or study a martial art but their skills decline quickly because they fail to practice frequently enough. Having the proper mindset means being tough, determined, never cutting corners and taking every precaution to ensure survival. In a combat situation, having the proper mindset means being prepared to employ lethal force without hesitation and never quitting during the fight regardless of fear or pain. The training suggestions in this manual will help you develop the proper mindset.

Situational Awareness

Lack of situational awareness is one of the leading causes of failure or death in combat situations. In modern society, most people's situational awareness is very low. They generally spend their day wrapped up in their own thoughts and problems and pay little attention to what is going on around them. People who live in relatively secure environments fall into even deeper levels of complacency and unpreparedness. The mentality of, “it can’t happen to me,” can ultimately prove to be disastrously wrong. Most victims of crime, terrorism and other deadly attacks lived their lives thinking, “it can’t happen to me.”

People with the proper mindset understand the importance of situational awareness and make disciplined efforts to cultivate it. Situational awareness begins with awareness of the threat and awareness that bad things can happen to anyone. Situational awareness involves trying to remain alert at all times without being paranoid. Situational awareness also involves keeping up with local news, and studying trends in violent crime. Those committed to protecting their families might conduct research to identify registered sex offenders in their area. When you travel to a new city, it is useful to learn which neighborhoods have a higher crime rate and plan your route accordingly. The best way to improve your situational awareness is to make a conscious effort to continually cultivate and improve it.

Skill Proficiency

Once you have the proper mindset and maintain good situational awareness, the next step is to ensure you have the proper skills or “tools” to protect yourself in a combat situation. When striving to improve skill proficiency it is important to choose the best skills and techniques that are simple, effective, easy to perform and can realistically apply to a real-life scenario. Then you must practice these techniques repeatedly until they become second nature. This will maximize the chances that you will respond immediately in a high-stress situation. The central focus of this manual is to help you build skill proficiency.

Physical Fitness

Fitness is a critical but often overlooked factor that affects your chances of survival in a combat situation. Even skilled fighters with the proper mindset and high levels of situational awareness can lose a fight simply because they run out of energy. In order to maintain adequate levels of combat fitness, you do not need to achieve the same fitness level as a professional or Olympic athlete. Rather, the key is merely to stay healthy, maintain a decent level of cardiovascular endurance, running speed, functional strength and coordination. Popular commercial fitness programs don’t always focus on the most useful abilities needed for combat. For example, many people jog but how many also run sprints to build speed? Simply being able to run fast without falling is one of the most critical survival skills in a gunfight or emergency situation, yet most people rarely practice sprinting. For those interested in combat fitness, Special Tactics provides a range of books and courses on the subject.

VENUE SECURITY
Fundamentals and Organization

The four fundamentals just described apply to all types of combat and security operations. There are also certain concepts and fundamentals that apply specifically to protection work. As already explained, venue security focuses on protecting the VIP on foot when he/she has arrived at the venue or destination. There are a number of activities the VIP may be conducting at the venue, several of which are discussed in detail in the following sections. While the techniques of VIP protection vary widely depending on the situation, there are certain core concepts and fundamentals that apply to almost all aspects of security operations.

Cover, Concealment and Screening

Cover and concealment are some of the most basic and important concepts in all types of modern combat operations. However, remarkably, it is very common for even experienced security professionals, law enforcement officers and military personnel to fail to take advantage of cover and concealment, even when under hostile fire. When conducting protection operations in particular, you must take maximum advantage of cover and concealment at all times to ensure the safety of the VIP and the rest of the security detail. It is also critical to take advantage of screening whenever possible, using objects and obstacles to screen the detail or motorcade from hostile observation.

When you are not under fire and operating under normal conditions, you should still be mindful of cover, concealment and screening. This means, if you are standing still, it is better not to stand in the open but instead stand near a large object or piece of cover. Even if you are not actually crouching down and taking cover behind that object, it will provide some degree of protection. More importantly, should you need cover quickly, you will be standing right next to it and won't have to run to cover first and then get down.

It is also important to provide "body coverage" for the VIP whenever possible. This means that if you are escorting the VIP away from a potential threat, you should position yourself between the VIP and the threat as you evacuate. This sometimes requires you to move closer to the VIP and angle your body differently. Body coverage becomes more effective if you are wearing armor.

Finally, cover and concealment becomes even more important when you are under fire. If you are taking hostile fire, do not run out into the open if you can take cover behind a solid object. Under heavy fire, you may have to go prone (lie down) to offer a smaller target and take advantage of cover provided by a curb or small hill. It is also critical not to take cover behind objects that will not stop bullets like small trees, bushes or trash cans. All of these examples emphasize the importance of cover, concealment and screening and show how it is critical to all aspects of protection operations.

Speed and Timing

Like cover and concealment, speed and timing are critical, core concepts that apply to all aspects of protection operations. In emergency situations, you must move fast. When protecting a VIP from a unruly crowd, you may only have a few seconds to put yourself between the VIP and a rowdy individual charging through the fence line or cordon. If people throw eggs, or objects at the VIP you may have only an instant to attempt to knock the projectiles down and get the VIP out of the way.

Speed and timing are also closely connected. Being precise in the timing of your actions and movements also greatly increases security for the VIP. This concept applies to everything from ensuring the VIP sticks precisely to his/her schedule and arrives at all meetings and events on time. In short, while speed is often critical, it is sometimes also important to ensure the timing of your actions is precisely controlled and synchronized.

Free-Flowing Flexibility

Many of the techniques in this book provide specific prescriptions for what particular detail members should do at specific times in specific situations. However, it is important to remember that procedures can change based on the situation and must remain flexible. This is particularly important when operating with a small detail of only 3-4 people. Every member of the detail must maintain situational awareness and be prepared to fill in and cover down for their fellow detail members.

For example, if a technique calls for the Officer in Charge (OIC also sometimes called the Team Leader) to take control of the VIP and provide body coverage in an emergency, what happens if another detail member is much closer to the VIP? Should the detail put the VIP at risk and wait for the OIC to get in position? No, the closer detail member should assume the OIC's responsibility in a flexible, free-flowing manner. They must then recognize what has happened and trade off responsibilities with the other detail member. This calls for all detail members to cross train in order to be able to fill in for one another in an emergency.

The same “free-flow” principle applies to all aspects of protection operations. If one detail member is providing cover to the right, the next detail member will cover the left, but if the first detail members covers the left, the next will remain flexible and cover the right. This is the concept of free-flowing flexibility.

Detail Organization and Position Assignments

If you are operating with three or four people, there are a number of different ways you can organize or assign them depending on your priorities, mission and expected threat. While a 3-4 person detail offers more options than a 1-2 person detail, it is still limited in capacity compared to a full detail with 6+ personnel. Detail members will need to assume multiple roles and responsibilities while covering several potential threats simultaneously. In most cases the detail will also have to assume risk in some areas in order to offer better protection in other areas. Essentially, sometimes you may have to give up something to gain something.

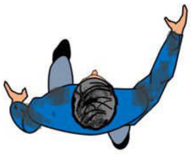
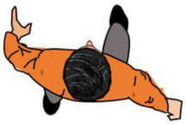
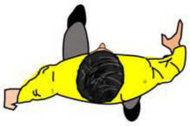
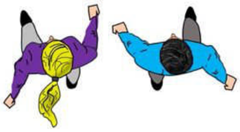
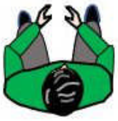
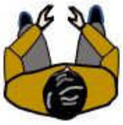
When organizing a detail to provide security at a venue, the first thing you need to consider is transportation. If the venue is far away, you will need to drive there in a motorcade which will limit your detail organization options. The chart on the next page lists the various positions you can employ in an escort detail.

Depending on the size of your detail, you will be able to pick 3 or 4 of the listed positions and assign them to your personnel. Therefore, if no vehicle transportation is required, you will not need to assign any drivers to remain with the vehicles and you can therefore have a 3-4 person walking escort. However, if you need a single vehicle motorcade you will have to assign a limo driver, limiting you to a 3-person walking escort. If you employ a two vehicle motorcade you will need two drivers, leaving no more than two detail members for walking escort.

An additional complication arises from the fact that most VIPs prefer to sit alone in the back of the limo, meaning that unless you employ two vehicles, only the limo driver and OIC will be able to ride in the motorcade. Any additional personnel will need to arrange for their own transportation ahead of time with the Advance and meet the detail at the venue. For all of these reasons, this book includes instructions for operating with anywhere from one to four people. Even though you might have a four-person detail, you might find yourself with fewer personnel at the venue for any of the reasons discussed above.

Another consideration relates to vehicle evacuation. If the motorcade is immobilized, the drivers will need to exit the vehicles and will then assume roles as part of the walking detail. Therefore, it is critical for drivers to understand how to assume the roles of the Right/Left Rear, Advance or even Officer in Charge (OIC) and Shift Leader (SL) in an emergency situation. With limited manpower, it is critical for all detail members to cross train in each others’ responsibilities in various activities and tactical movements.

Once again, the table below lists the various positions you can assign to your personnel when operating with a 3-4 person escort detail. You can pick 3-4 of these positions depending on the size of your detail and the constraints imposed by transportation.

POSITION	DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES
Officer in Charge (Team Leader) 	Overall in charge of the detail and primarily responsible for the VIP. Remains close to the VIP at all times during movement and is personally responsible for the VIP's safety and wellbeing. Handles all administrative matters relating to the VIP. Works closely with the VIP and the VIP's Staff to ensure all goals and objectives are accomplished.
Advance 	Performs all on-site venue surveys and site/venue coordinations. Acts as a guide for the rest of the detail while at the venue or scheduled stops. Coordinates security arrangements before the detail's arrival at the venue. Receives and leads the VIP to all arranged personal meetings and/or specific locations at the venue as specified on the VIP's itinerary.
Shift Leader 	Tactical commander of the detail. Works closely with the OIC to ensure all security aspects are covered before, during, and after a PSD mission. Manages and responsible for all personnel duty assignments, training, and all tactical matters pertaining to the detail.
Right/Left Rear 	The right rear (RR) or left rear (LR) is an additional detail member that augments security for the detail while on foot. In an escort detail limited to four people, you will only be able to have one person right/left rear position. Therefore, the designation of "right" and "left" is flexible and can vary depending on the situation.
Limo Driver 	Drives the limo and responsible for all Limo related matters and activities. Prepares, maintains, and handles the Limo during all VIP travels. Keeps the OIC updated on the status of the Limo at all times. Remains with the Limo during operations and movement. Monitors and responds to all radio transmissions as needed.
Shadow Car Driver 	Drives the Shadow Car. Responsible for all Shadow Car related matters. He/she keeps the OIC updated on the status of the Shadow Car at all times and has total control of the Shadow Car during all VIP travels. Remains with the Shadow Car at all times. Monitors and responds to all radio transmissions as needed.

Common Venue Security Scenarios

As already discussed, there are many possible activities a VIP might conduct at a venue and it would be impossible either to cover all of them in a single book, or to plan for all of them as a protection detail. Instead, this book aims to cover the most common scenarios you might encounter in the field when conducting protection work. More importantly, the scenarios, tactics, techniques and procedures in this book are generalized, allowing you to adjust and modify the same core concepts to adapt to a variety of situations.

Following from the last point, none of the techniques in this book are intended as rigid prescriptions that must be followed to the letter. Not everything in this book might apply to your organization's unique operational requirements, mission set and personal preferences. Therefore, take the techniques and procedures from this book and modify them to fit your own needs. Tactics must constantly evolve in order to remain effective since the environment and the threat are also constantly evolving.

The sections in this book proceed in a logical sequence. The first sections cover general principles of foot movement and walking formations that can apply to any environment either indoors or outdoors. The last of these sections discusses how to deal with attacks when moving on foot. The next sections cover operating inside building or structures, how to navigate certain interior configurations and how to employ protection Close Quarters Battle (CQB) to get the VIP to a safe haven inside a building after an attack. The final sections cover how to protect the VIP at special events where there is a large crowd and how to evacuate the VIP in an emergency situation.

FOOT MOVEMENT
Walking Formations

Formations are critical for providing security when walking with the VIP. Formations provide a number of advantages and prepare the detail to respond quickly in a coordinated manner should a problem arise. First, formations help the various detail members keep track of each other and maintain 360-degree coverage at all times. If there were not prescribed positions for each detail member, the detail members might drift around the VIP randomly, leaving gaps in security. In some situations, without established formations, the detail might all converge on a single threat, leaving the VIP exposed to threats from other directions.

Formations also dictate fields of observation and fields of fire for each detail member. This ensures the detail can safely and effectively observe and engage threats in any direction. If a formation is jumbled or disorganized, detail members might accidentally shoot each other, shoot the VIP or lose visual contact with either the VIP or a potential threat. This becomes particularly important at night, in a dense crowd or other high-stress situations.

Formations vary depending on the number of personnel in the protective detail. The goal is to provide 360-degree coverage but this can prove challenging for smaller details. This means that the fewer people in a detail, the more flexible the formation must become. In other words, in a smaller detail, PSD members might need to momentarily break formation to deal with unexpected threats or cover different angles. However, when adjusting the formation in this way, it is always important to maintain orientation with the VIP and other detail members to ensure there are no major gaps in coverage.

The formations in this chapter deal primarily with walking in an open area or down a street, sidewalk or wide hallway. The detail might have to adjust formation when entering certain structures or building/room configurations such as stairwells, elevators or confined spaces. We cover some of these scenarios later on but the important thing is for the OIC or SL to remain alert and adjust the formation as needed based on the situation and common sense.

Protective Rings and Security Circles

While formations dictate the positioning of the various detail members in relation to each other and the VIP, protective rings and security circles relate to a formation's spacing and how far out detail members move from the VIP and the center of the formation. There are three different security circles: the extended security circle, the close security circle and the contact security circle. Terminology can vary between organizations but for the purpose of this book, the security circle is the imaginary line on the ground that encircles the detail at the extended, close and contact distances. Protective rings are the actual formations of body coverage that the detail forms along those various circles. However, the specific terminology is not important as long as the detail knows what you are talking about.

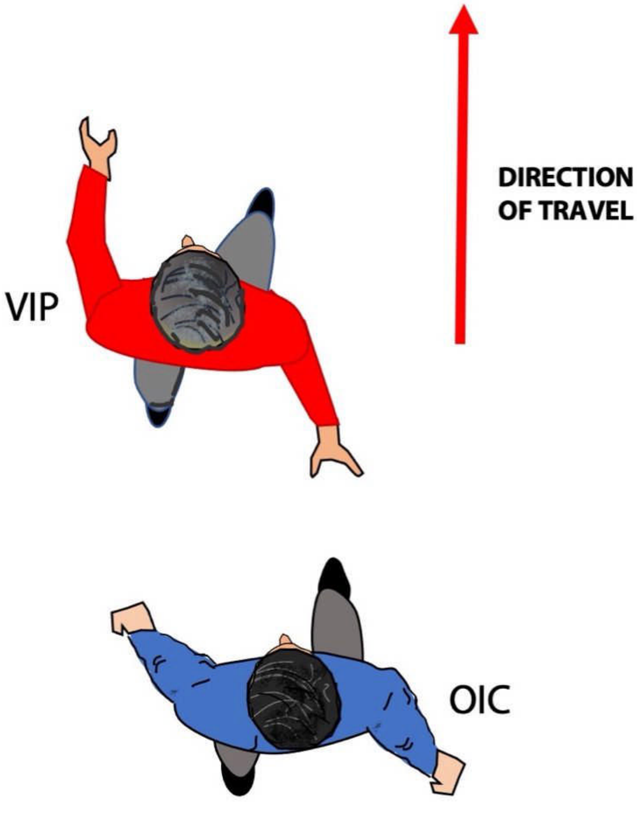
Each security circle has unique uses and gives the detail some flexibility to accommodate the VIP's needs while enhancing the protective barrier as needed should the crowd behavior change from civil to disorderly. Therefore, detail members will likely move in and out to different security circles as needed while the VIP mingles with the crowd during the special event. Individual detail members might move in and out to different security circles, or the detail as a whole may also come together and form protective rings in certain situations.

The detail might need to employ protective rings during a special event with a large crowd. For example, in one instance the detail may assume an extended protective ring in order to provide the VIP with some privacy for a personal conversation. Soon after, the detail might need to collapse into a contact protective ring, maintaining physical contact with the VIP in order to fend off aggressive individuals trying to invade the VIP's personal space. The situation will dictate how to place PSD members along these various security circles and when to form different protective rings. The SL or OIC will generally make these decisions.

WALKING FORMATIONS: NO IMMEDIATE THREAT

Singleton Escort

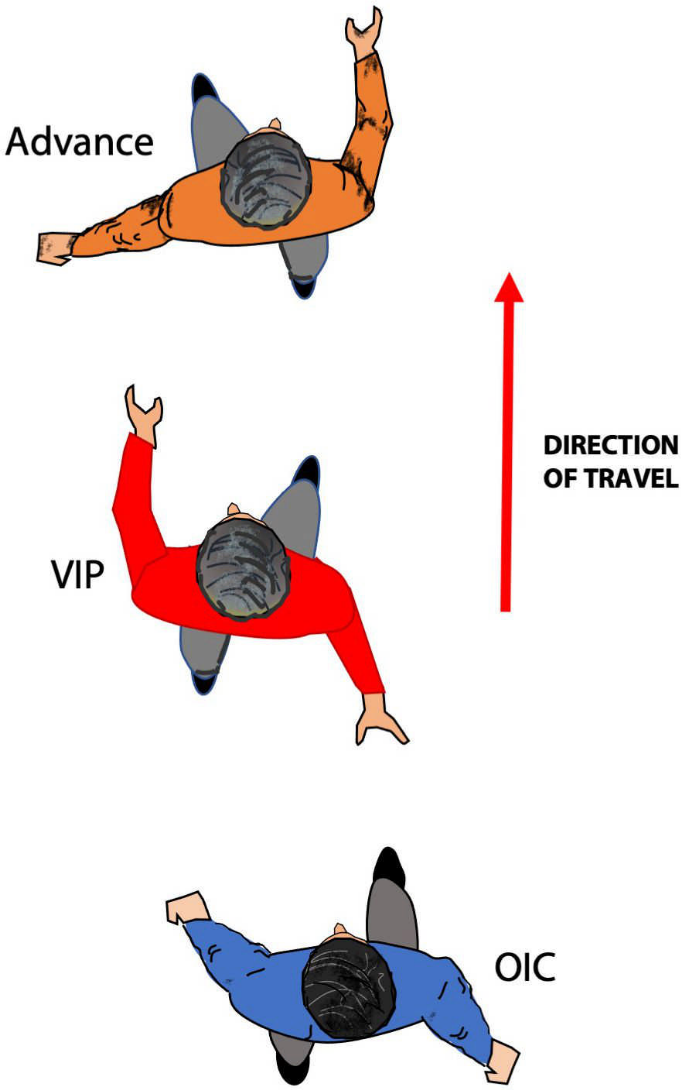
In some cases, there will only be one detail member able to dismount from the motorcade and move about the venue with the VIP. This will most likely be the OIC since the OIC is primarily responsible for the VIP and should ideally remain close to the VIP at all times. In a singleton escort formation, the OIC must remain especially vigilant at all times since an attack could come from any angle. It can prove extremely difficult for the OIC to remain on the lookout for threats around the full 360-degree circle for extended periods of time so be aware that the VIP is at increased risk with only a singleton escort. The standard position for the OIC is slightly behind the VIP (within arms reach) to the weapon-hand side. However, because the OIC is alone, he/she must be ready to reposition as necessary to guard against unexpected threats. This might include moving to the left or right side of the VIP or moving in front of the VIP to screen. With only one detail member, it is impossible to reply on fixed formulas. The OIC must remain alert and adapt quickly to the situation.



WALKING FORMATIONS: NO IMMEDIATE THREAT

Two-Person Escort

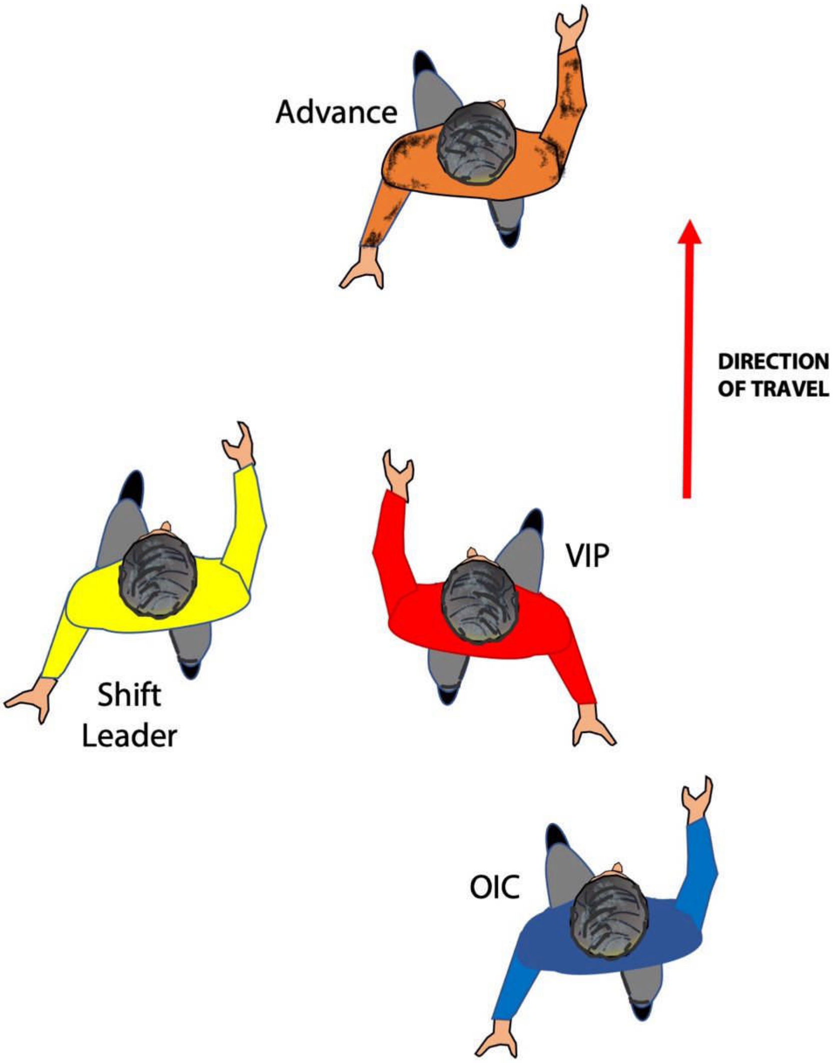
Having an additional detail member will greatly increase the level of security for the VIP. In general, the two detail members will be the OIC and the Advance but this can change depending on the organization of the team and the situation. The OIC will generally remain behind the VIP offset to the weapon-hand side while the Advance moves in front of the VIP. While better than a singleton escort, a two-person escort is still small which means that both detail members may have to adjust position based on the situation and potential threats. One or both detail members may offset to the left or right if they detect a threat from either side.



WALKING FORMATIONS: NO IMMEDIATE THREAT

Three-Person Escort

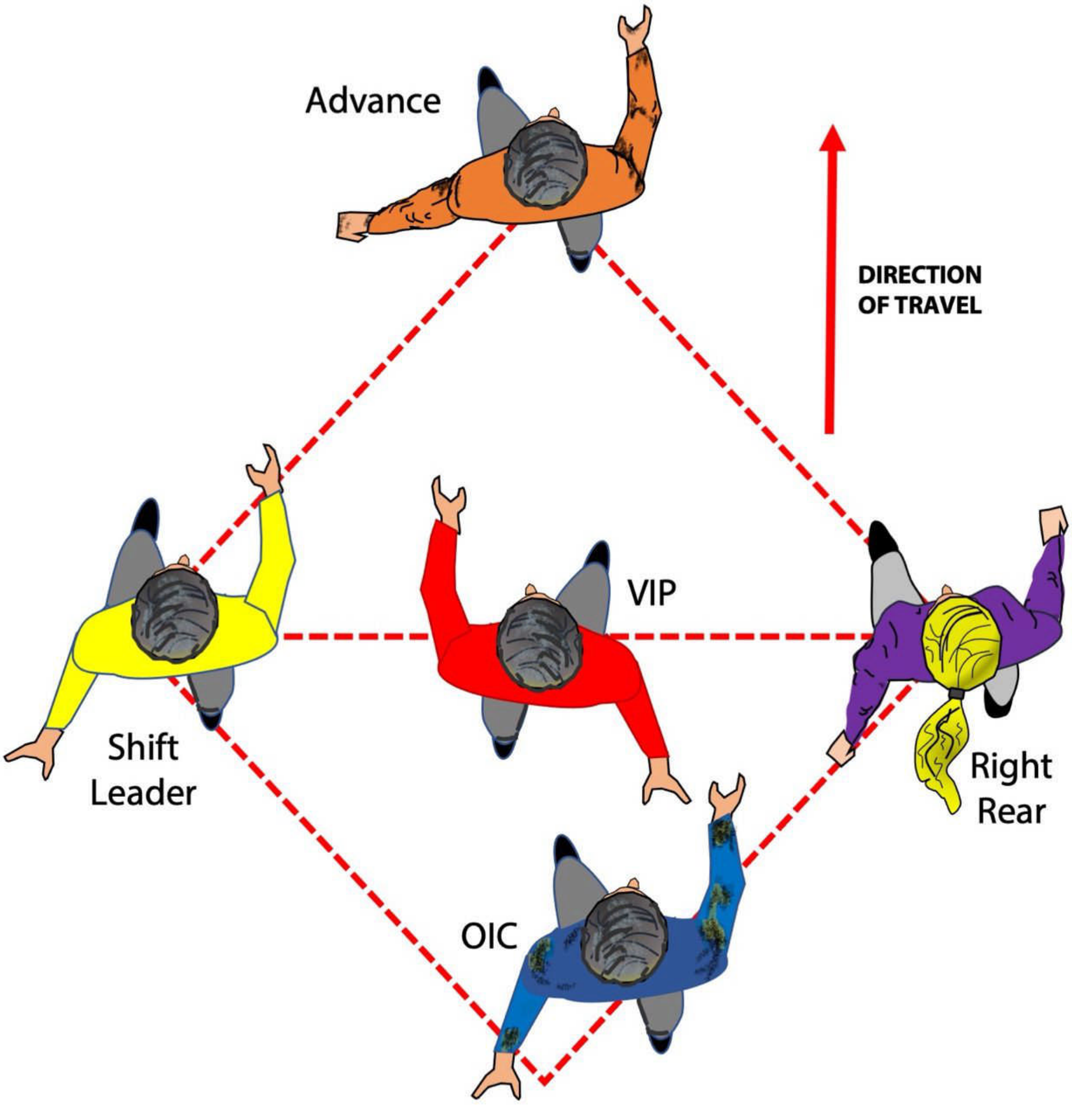
In a three-person escort, the third person will generally be the Shift Leader. The OIC and Advance assume the same positions as in previous formations and the Shift Leader attaches to either the right side or left side of the formation, depending on the situation and possible threats. As in previous formations, all detail members should remain flexible and might need to adjust position. The Shift Leader in particular should be prepared to switch to either the right side or left side as needed.



WALKING FORMATIONS: NO IMMEDIATE THREAT

Four-Person Escort

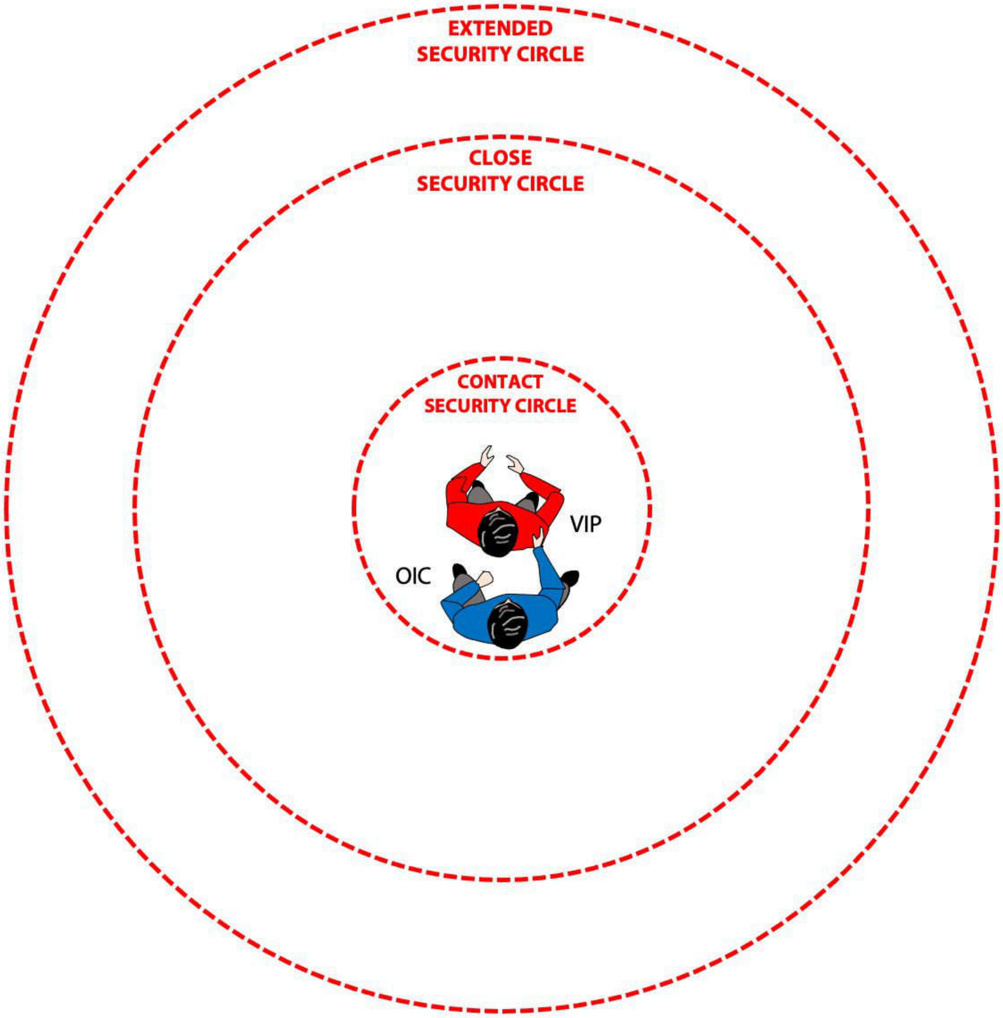
The fourth member of a four-person escort will likely be either the Right-Rear or Left-Rear. As mentioned earlier, the Right-Rear and Left-Rear positions can be interchangeable in a smaller detail. Having four detail members will allow for a complete protective diamond around the VIP, covering the full 360-degree circle more completely without the need for constant formation adjustments. However, this does not mean that detail members should not still remain alert and adjust their position based on the situation and possible threats.



WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Protective Rings Overview

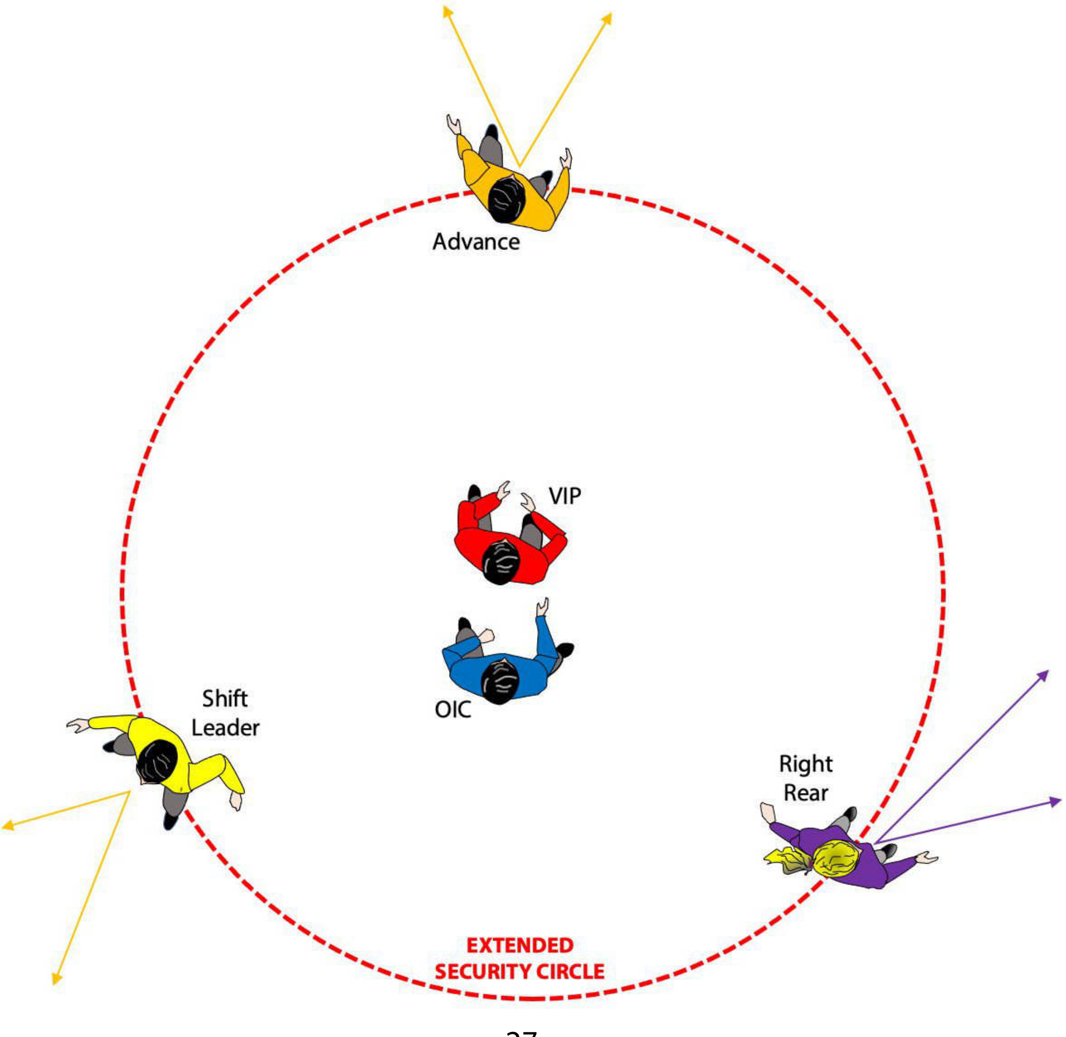
As discussed earlier, security circles and protective rings relate to your ability to guard the VIP from different types of threats at different distances. The three circles depicted below are the contact security circle, the close security circle, and the extended security circle. Your ability to form protective rings, provide security and position your detail effectively within these circles will depend on the number of personnel in your detail, the situation and the level of risk you are willing to assume. Moving further out gives the detail more time and space to deal with threats but leaves larger holes in coverage. A tight ring closes holes in coverage but gives the detail minimal time to react to unexpected attacks.



WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Extended Security Ring

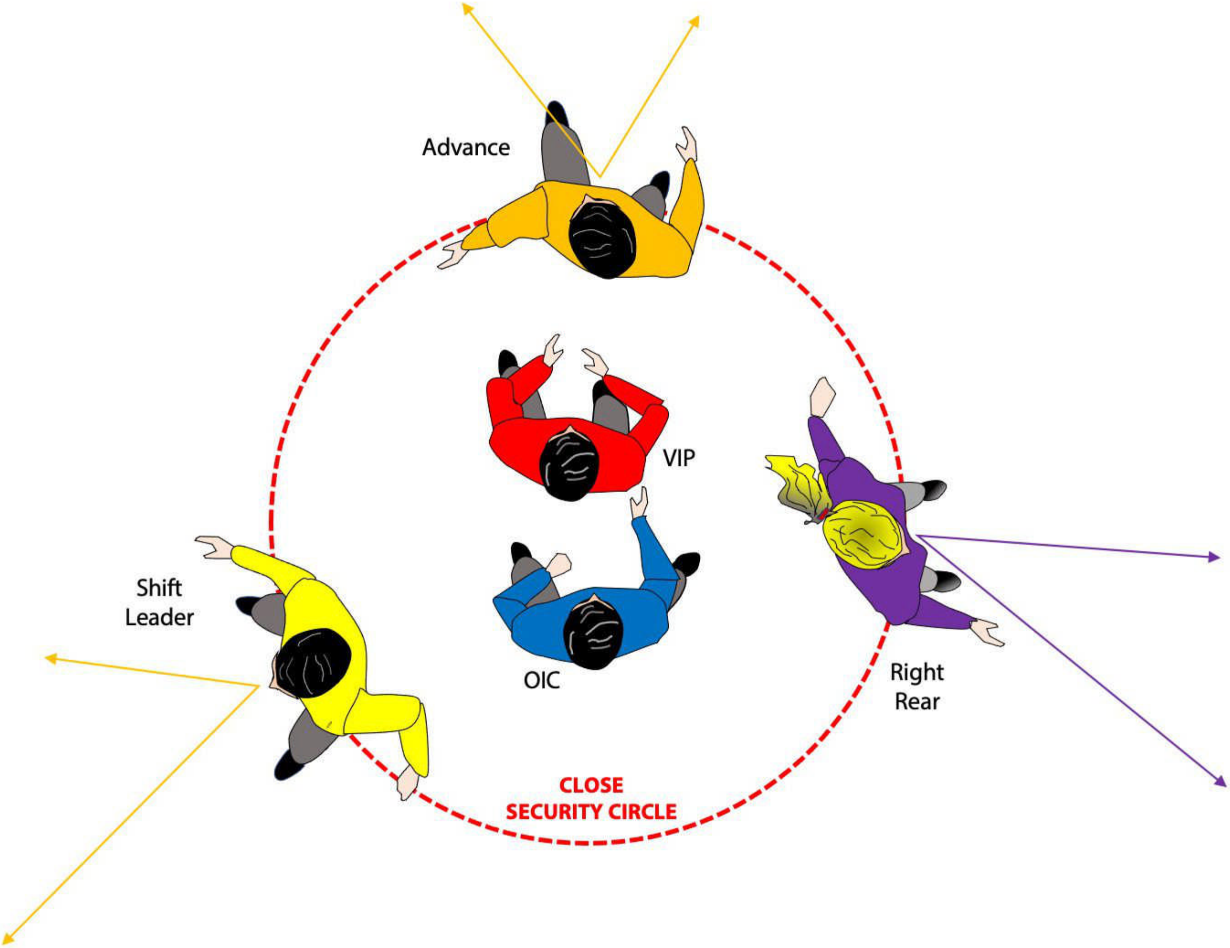
If the detail needs to execute an extended protective ring, all detail members will increase their distance from the VIP, turn outward toward the potential danger and maintain a good distance away from the VIP and OIC. The OIC will remain in the standard position at arm's length from the VIP. The command to execute the extended ring should be given by the Shift Leader or OIC. There are a number of situations when an extended ring might be needed, particularly if the detail must keep the VIP farther away from a crowd or bystanders. An extended security ring gives the detail more reaction time by keeping potential threats further away. The VIP might also want more privacy in some situations or a more personal setting for a one-on-one meet or conversation. These are just a few situations that might call for the detail to push the protective ring outward to the extended security circle.



WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Close Security Ring

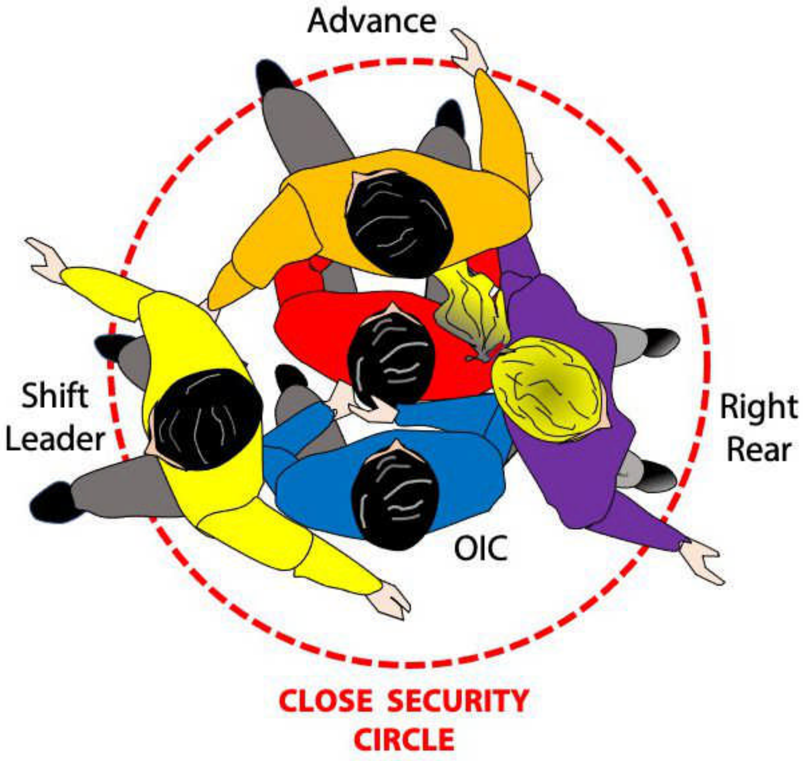
If the detail needs to execute a close security ring, all detail members will reduce their distance from the VIP, turn out toward the potential danger and maintain a double-arm or single-arm's length interval from the VIP. The OIC will remain in the standard position at arm's length from the VIP. The close security ring provides better 360-degree protection and screening and can be useful if the surrounding crowd is getting more rowdy or aggressive. The SL or OIC will give the command to execute the close security ring.



WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Contact Security Ring

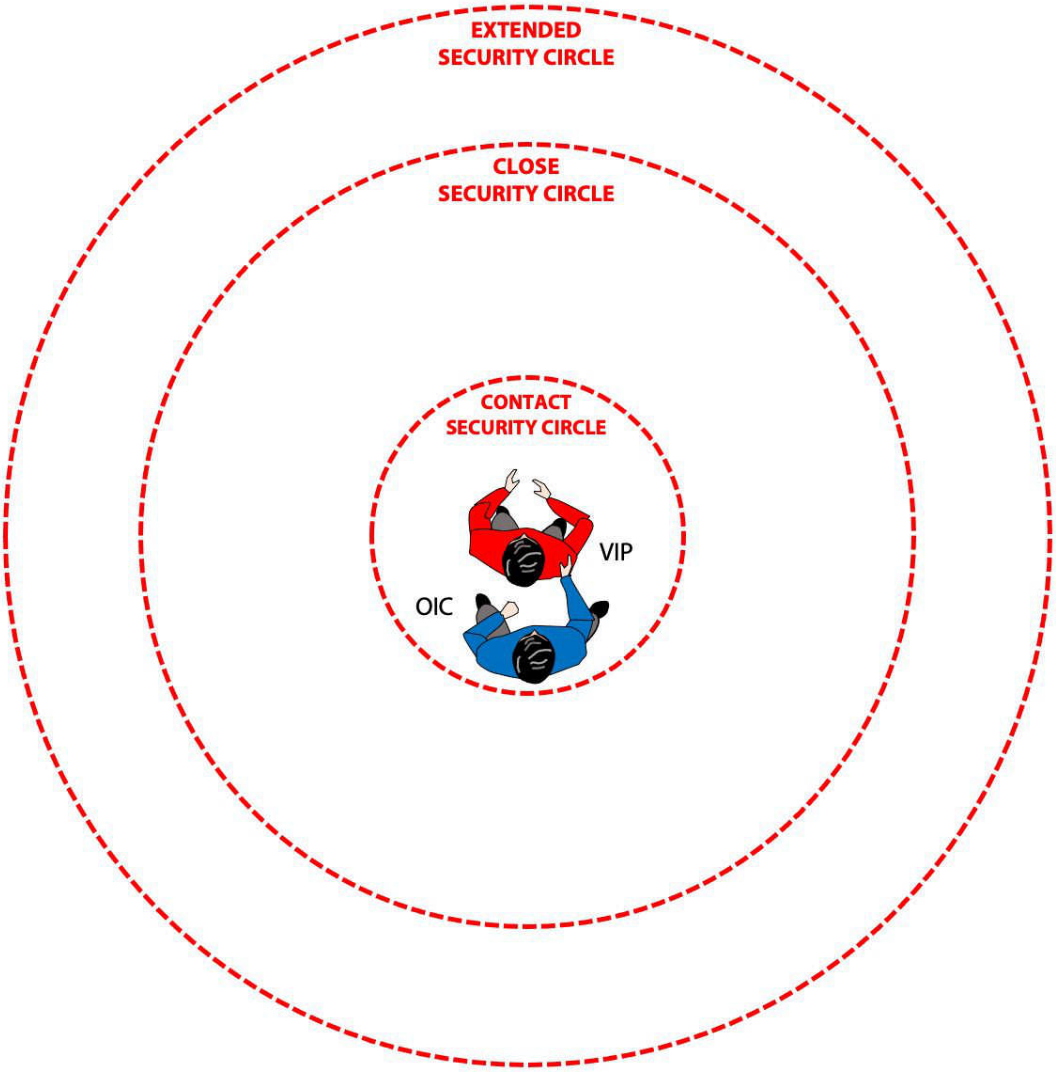
If the detail needs to execute a contact security ring, all detail members will move in within physical touch of the VIP and the OIC. Each PSD member will turn outward and grab his/her fellow detail member's clothing or belt using the left hand. This will help tighten the protective ring. In smaller details it might not be possible for every PSD member to grab hold and in these cases the detail must do its best to maintain a tight security circle. The contact security ring is the most difficult ring to work with since it does not give the detail any wiggle room to stop an attack at a greater distance; hence, it lacks flexibility and reaction time. The close security ring might be needed if a crowd becomes threatening and starts closing the distance toward the VIP or if the VIP is in imminent danger. The SL of OIC will give the order to collapse the ring and start evacuating the VIP back to the motorcade or to a safe haven. Usually, the Advance will have already identified several evacuation routes, which will make the evacuation process much easier. However, a very aggressive crowd can be unpredictable and may force the detail to alter any preplanned actions. Therefore, the detail will need to be constantly monitoring the crowd's mood and visually checking the various escape routes periodically.



WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Singleton Escort Security Circles

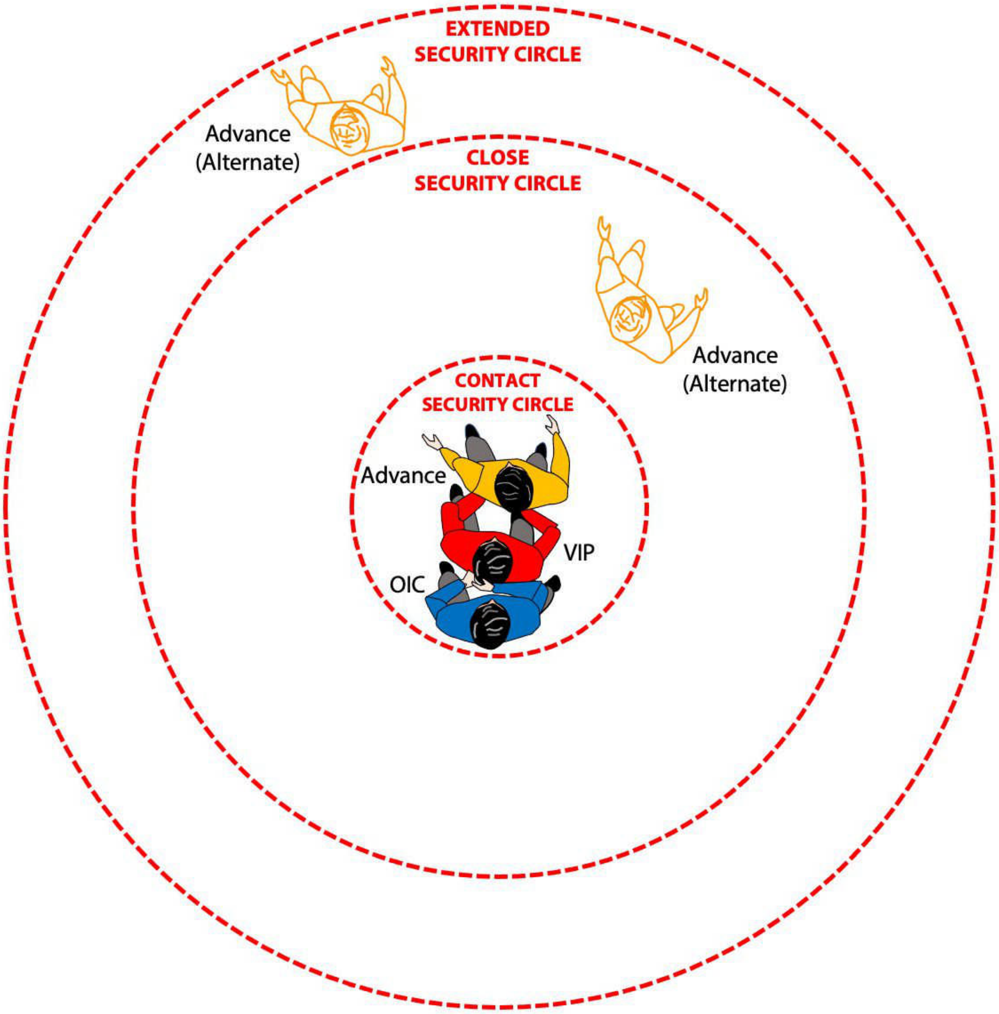
In a singleton escort, as already mentioned, the OIC will be extremely busy trying to cover all potential threats from all directions. This limits the detail's options when it comes to security circles. While it is possible for the OIC to momentarily leave the VIP to assume a security position along the close circle or extended circle, this incurs additional risk and is generally not the preferred option. In extreme situations if the OIC has to move away from the VIP, the OIC should get back into the contact security circle as quickly as possible and maintain arm's length with the VIP.


EXTENDED SECURITY CIRCLE
CLOSE SECURITY CIRCLE
CONTACT SECURITY CIRCLE
VIP
OIC

WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Two-Person Escort Security Circles

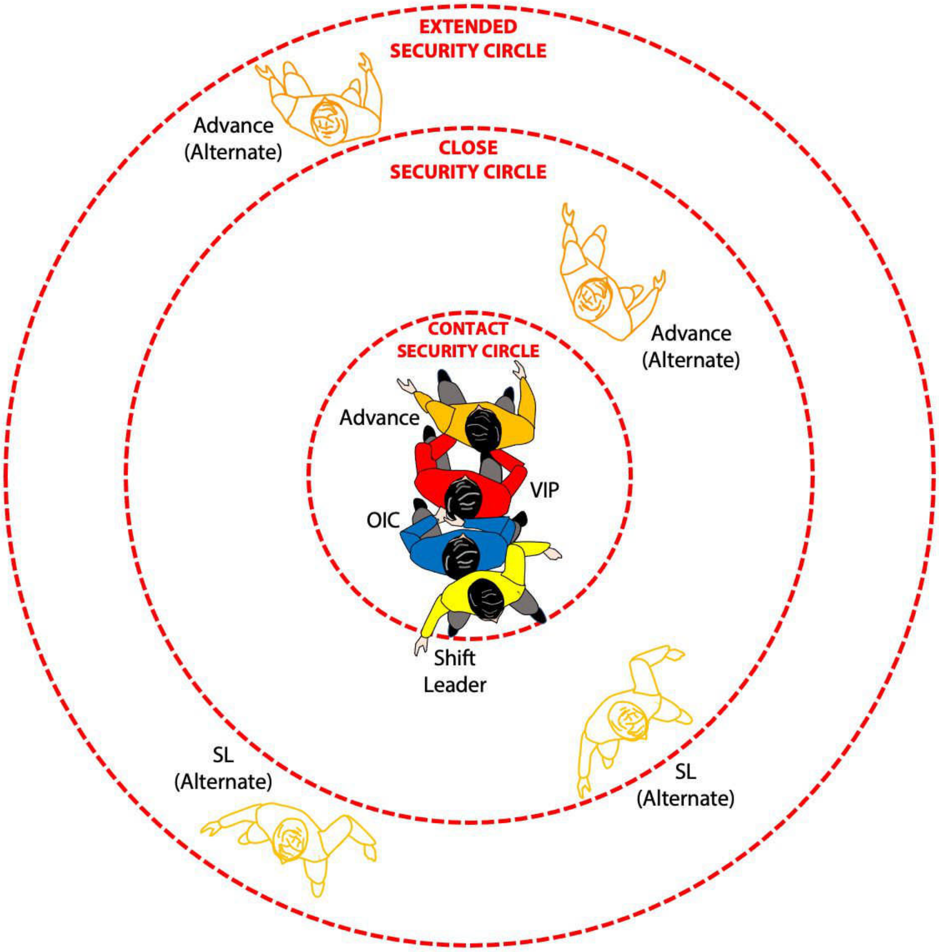
A detail with two members has more options when it comes to security circles. The OIC should remain within the contact security circle, no more than arm's length from the VIP. The Advance (or second detail member) can increase or decrease his/her distance as needed, moving outward to either the close security circle or extended security circle. There are various reasons why the Advance might want to move farther out, such as keeping a rowdy individual away from the VIP and redirecting that individual in another direction. The Advance might also want to assume a better position to observe a particular threat or scout ahead to check a corner or danger area. However, when moving about, the Advance should always remain in visual contact with the VIP.


EXTENDED SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance (Alternate)
CLOSE SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance (Alternate)
CONTACT SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance
VIP
OIC

WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Three-Person Escort Security Circles

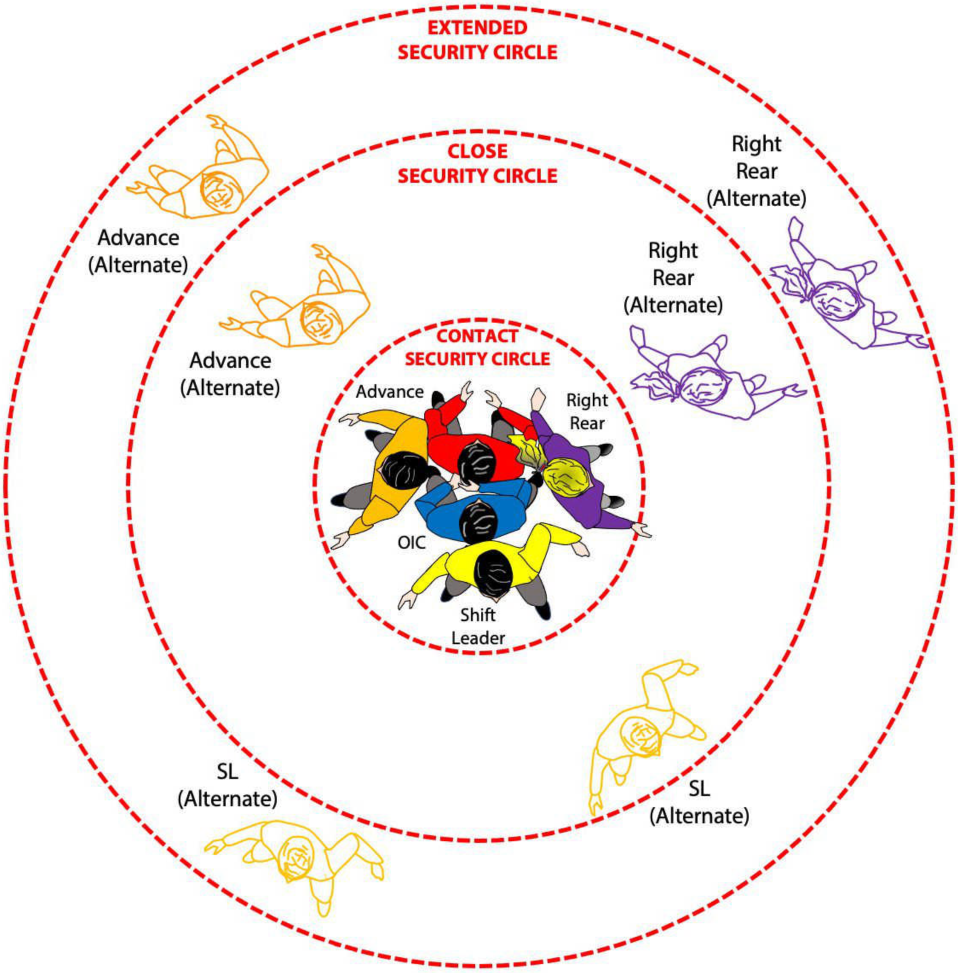
A detail with three members has even more options when it comes to positioning within the security circles. Once again, the OIC should remain within the contact security circle, no more than arm's length from the VIP. The remaining two detail members (most likely the Advance and the SL) can increase or decrease distance as needed based on the situation, moving outward to either the close security circle or extended security circle. There are no fixed rules for positioning detail members, the Advance might push out to the extended security circle while the SL pushes out only to the close security circle. The SL might also take charge and tell the Advance to move out to a specific location in order to address a particular threat. Detail members can move around the circle as well to cover different angles but the detail as a whole should attempt to maintain 360-degree protection as much as possible and not leave large gaps in coverage.


EXTENDED SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance (Alternate)
CLOSE SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance (Alternate)
CONTACT SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance
VIP
OIC
Shift Leader
SL (Alternate)
SL (Alternate)

WALKING FORMATIONS: PROTECTIVE RINGS

Four-Person Escort Security Circles

A four-person detail is much better able to provide 360-degree protection for the VIP and has many options when it comes to positioning within the security circles. Once again, the OIC should remain within the contact security circle, no more than arm's length from the VIP. The remaining three detail members can increase or decrease distance as needed based on the situation, moving outward to either the close security circle or extended security circle. The SL might take charge and tell one or both of the other detail members to move out to specific locations in order to address a particular threat. Detail members can move around the circle as well to cover different angles but the detail as a whole should attempt to maintain 360-degree protection as much as possible and not leave large gaps in coverage.


EXTENDED SECURITY CIRCLE
CLOSE SECURITY CIRCLE
CONTACT SECURITY CIRCLE
Advance (Alternate)
Advance (Alternate)
Right Rear (Alternate)
Right Rear (Alternate)
Advance
Right Rear
OIC
Shift Leader
SL (Alternate)
SL (Alternate)

FOOT MOVEMENT

Attack Response

When moving on foot using one of the formations or protective rings described in the previous section, the detail might come under attack. Such an attack might take many forms. A rowdy or drunk individual might approach the VIP and start to yell or throw objects or liquids on the VIP. That same individual might try to push or grab the VIP. In other cases, a crowd of fans or supporters might mob the detail, trying to touch or hug the VIP.

Attacks can also be deadly. The detail might come under fire. This fire might be coming from a distance, or one or more shooters might attack from close range. An attacker armed with a knife might attack and chase the detail. An attacker might try to ram the detail with a car or motorcycle. There are too many possible scenarios to plan for dealing with each possibility individually. However, there are some general concepts, principles and techniques that can prove useful in all attack scenarios.

When an attack takes place you will generally not continue moving in your standard walking formation. Rather you will either form a close or contact protective ring and grab hold of the VIP to physically control the VIP's movement. This section offers a number techniques for grabbing and physically controlling the VIP in an emergency situation.

If you are operating with a detail that has more than one member, the additional detail members can respond in different ways based on the situation. Detail members might add to the protective ring and provide body coverage for the VIP, help guide the VIP to safety, scout ahead for threats or provide covering fire to protect the evacuation. Detail members might act on their own initiative or the SL/OIC might direct detail members with specific orders if needed.

In most cases, the more the detail can operate with "free-flowing flexibility" the faster the detail will be able to get out of the danger area to safety. This means that each detail member will observe the situation and act on his/her own initiative, basing decisions off of the actions and re-actions of the threat and fellow detail members. For example, if there is simultaneously a need to clear a corner up ahead and help the VIP off the ground, if one detail member decides to help the VIP, the other will push forward to clear the corner. If the first detail member pushes forward to the corner, the other will stop to help the VIP. This is much faster and more flexible than assigning fixed responsibilities or having the SL micromanage every action. The one general constant is that the OIC should remain with the VIP whenever possible. However, in some cases it might be necessary to break this rule as well.

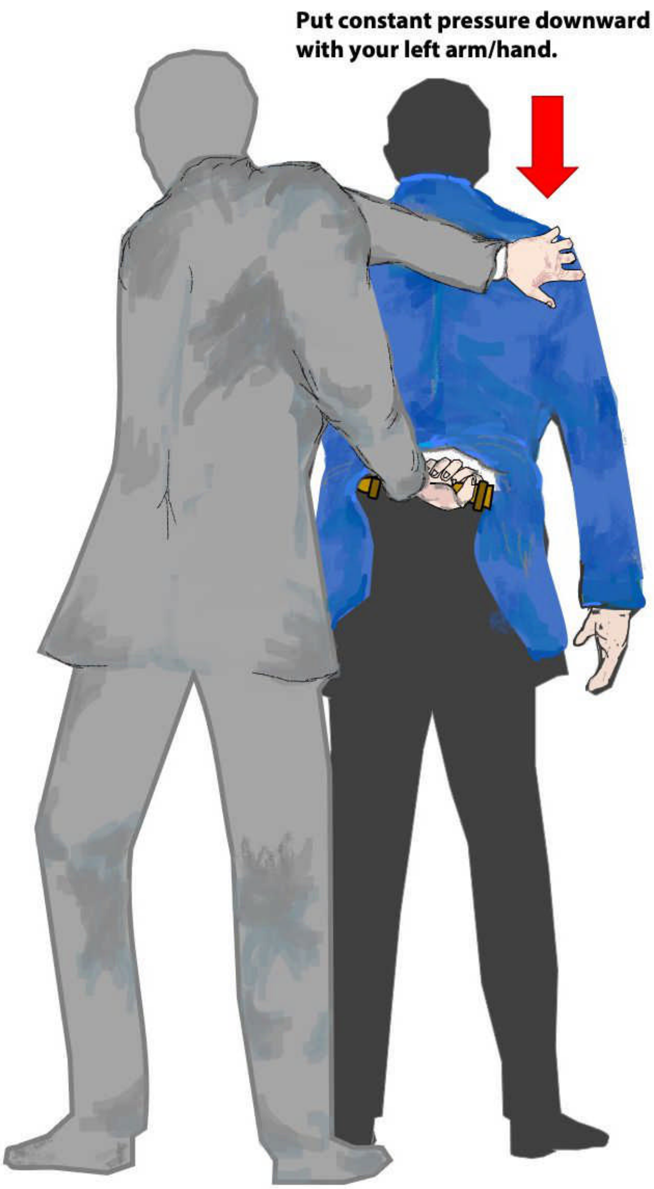
Most of the VIP control techniques and evacuation techniques described in this section can apply to details of varying sizes. Many techniques can be used both by a singleton detail and also by a larger detail. As with most tactical techniques, the following pages offer only basic building blocks and examples of how to employ them. In order to be effective, you must practice these various techniques in a variety of realistic training scenarios. Only then will you be able to apply the appropriate combination of techniques for a given situation.

ATTACK RESPONSE: VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Two-Handed Body Control

This control method requires the use of both hands. To perform this technique, bend your left arm at the elbow and place it across the VIP's shoulders or upper back. Apply strong and constant downward pressure to bend the VIP's upper body at the waist, keeping the VIP's head down. Maintain this constant downward pressure to prevent the VIP from standing upright during the evacuation. At the same time, use the right hand with the palm facing up to grab and secure the belt. If the VIP is not wearing a belt or you cannot grab the belt for some reason, grab whatever part of the VIP's clothing is the most secure. Stay as low as possible as you steer the VIP rapidly to safety.

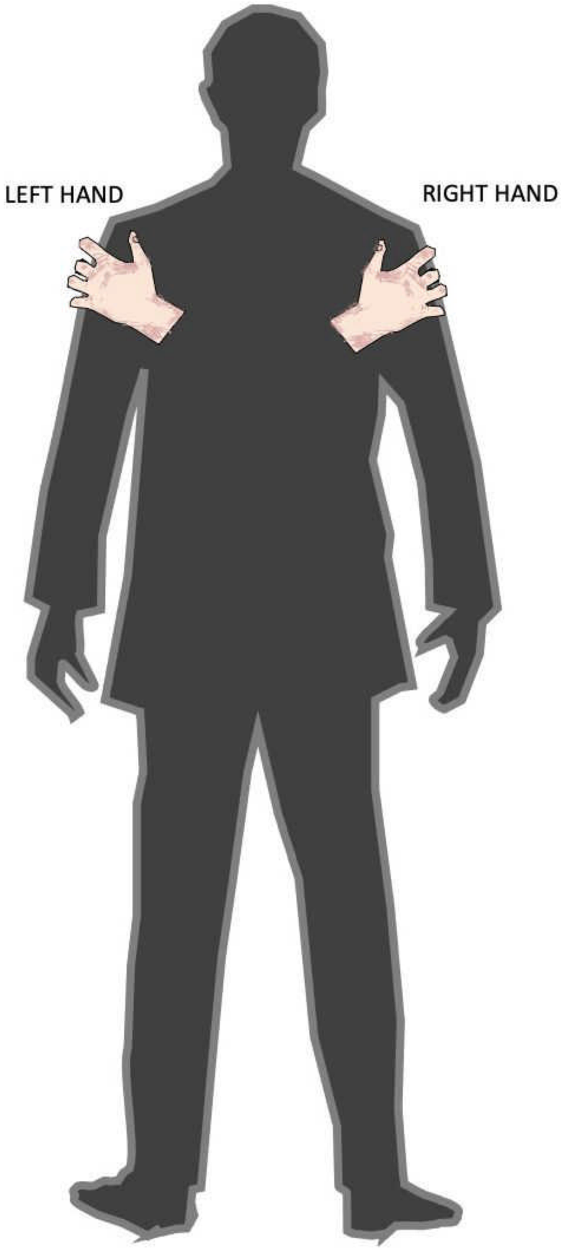
To move the VIP, grip the belt tightly and pull up lightly as you direct the VIP forward in the desired direction. This handgrip will also allow you to easily control the VIP if he/she staggers or if you must help the VIP back up after a fall. Still, be extra careful not to lift the VIP completely off the ground as you push forward. Maintaining this position, use your entire body to provide cover as you egress out of the danger area. Be prepared to shift your body to the left or right to cover the VIP from flanking fire if necessary.


Put constant pressure downward with your left arm/hand.

ATTACK RESPONSE: VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Two-Handed Turn and Push

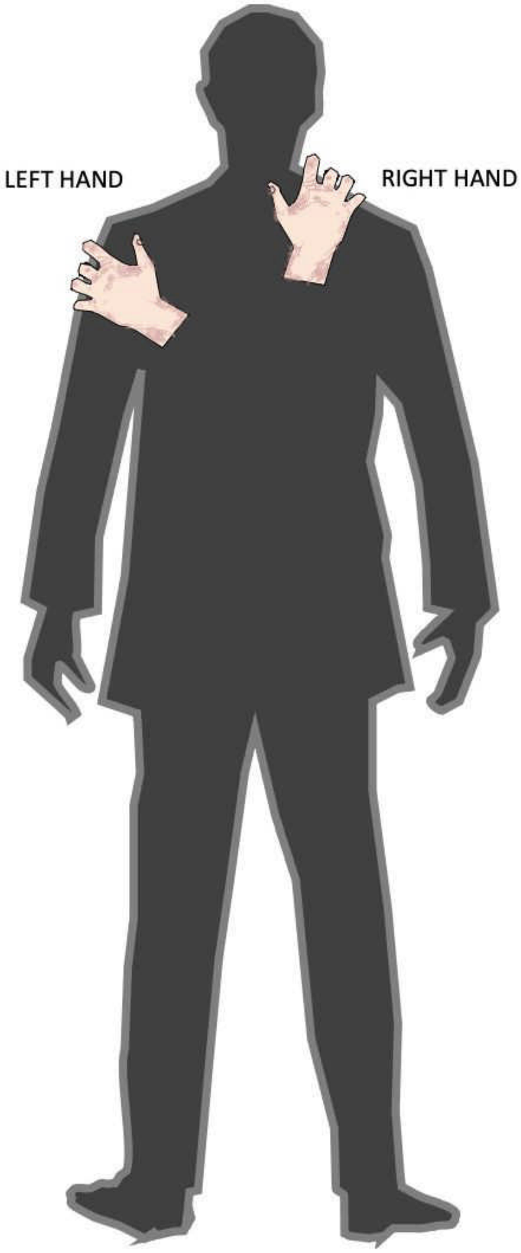
The turn and push is intended to quickly get the VIP out of the way in a safe direction while giving you space to deal with an incoming threat. This method also requires you to use both hands. To perform this technique, grab the VIP's upper arms from the outside with both hands and turn the VIP to the left or right. Immediately after turning, push the VIP firmly away from you. This force will propel the VIP out of the danger area quickly, giving you space to deal with the threat. You should note that the more force you apply with your push, the greater distance the VIP will be thrust away from you. It is also important to know that physical control of the VIP will be lost at that point. There is also that possibility that the VIP's to lose his/her balance when pushed forcefully; therefore, it is critical to use good judgement when applying this technique. The aim is to get the VIP away from an incoming threat as quickly as possible and you may judge that the risk of the VIP tripping or falling is outweighed by a life-threatening situation.



ATTACK RESPONSE: VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Two-Handed Straight Drop

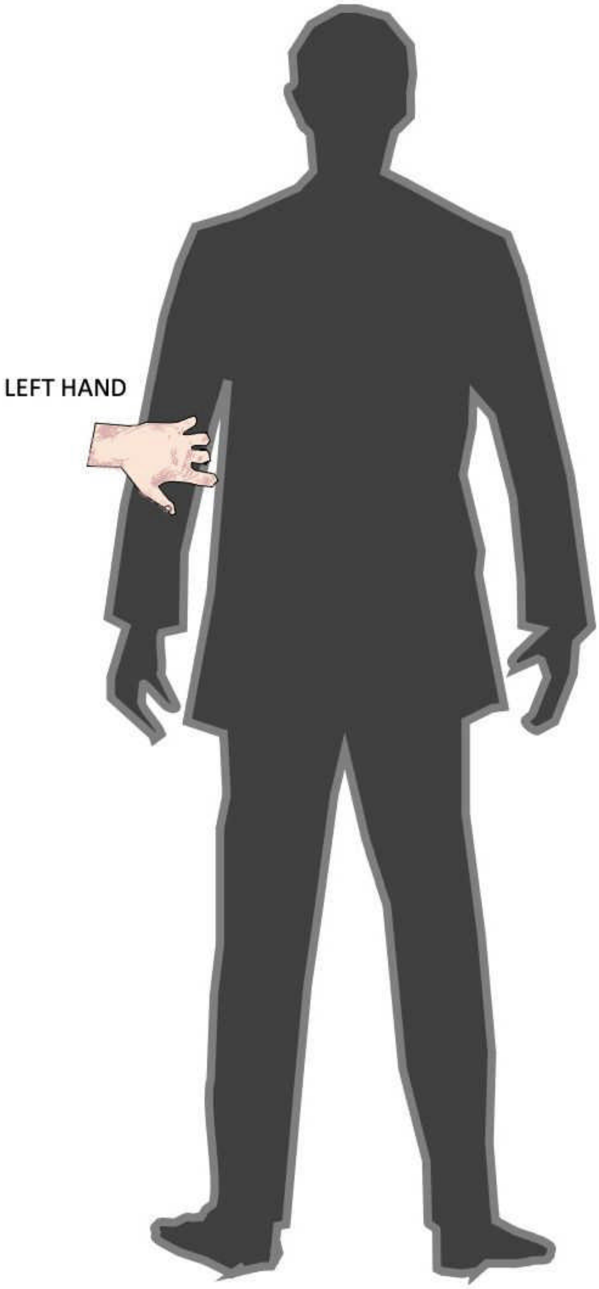
Like the turn and push technique, this technique is intended for a situation when the VIP is in serious danger and you must do whatever is necessary to get the VIP out of the way of an incoming threat. However, while the turn and push moves the VIP laterally, the straight drop will drop the VIP down to the ground quickly. This technique also requires you to use both hands. Using your right hand, grab the VIP's right shoulder at the base of the neck where the neck and the shoulder meet. Simultaneously secure the VIP's upper left arm. Immediately pull the VIP straight down and back towards the ground. Like the turn and push, this technique incurs some risk of harming the VIP as the VIP drops to the ground. Therefore, you should only use this technique in extreme cases when the VIP is in serious danger. For example, if the VIP suddenly comes under fire and bullets are cracking overhead, you will not have time to politely tell the VIP to get down, especially since the VIP may freeze, panic or try to run away. In this situation you must aggressively drop the VIP to the ground as fast as possible.



ATTACK RESPONSE: VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Inverted Turn

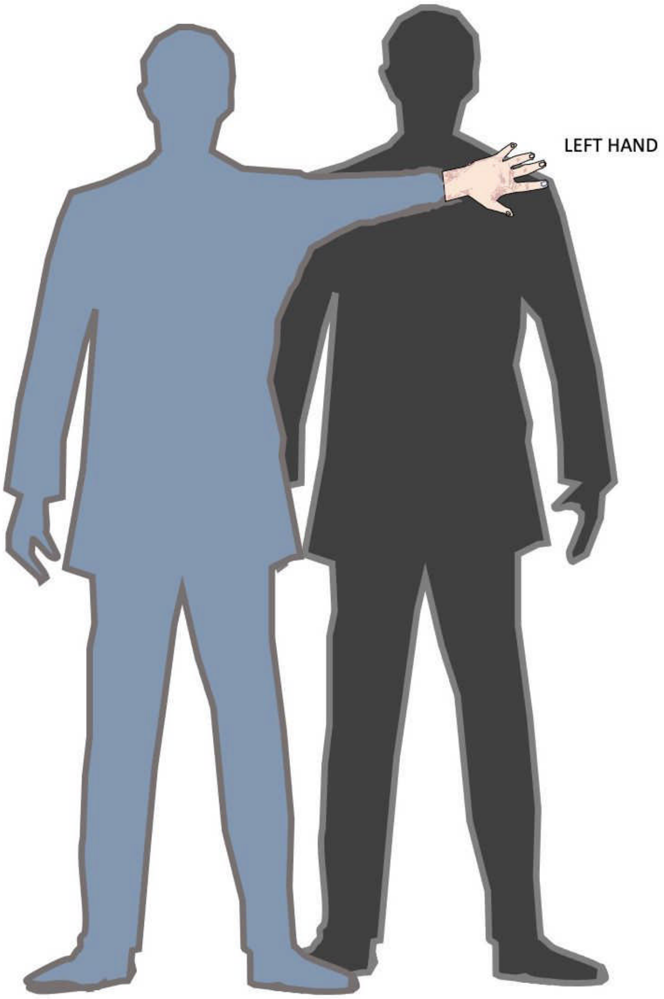
This technique allows you to move from a position behind the VIP to a position in front of the VIP. There are any number of reasons you might choose to do this. A threat might appear to the front and you will need to place yourself between the threat and the VIP. Or, you might need to move in front to quickly guide the VIP to safety. This method requires you to use only one hand, which means you can have your weapon drawn in the other hand if needed. To execute this technique, invert your left/weak hand with the thumb pointed down and slide it forward on the inside of the VIP's elbow. Firmly pull your arm outward and around in an arc to swing the VIP to the left as you step forward in front of the VIP. At this point you can either keep distance from the VIP to address a threat, or you can maintain physical contact with the VIP. To maintain contact, keep hold of the VIP's elbow after swinging him/her around. Then slide your hand down to the VIP's wrist and direct it toward your middle of your back towards your belt. Instruct the VIP to grab hold. You can now tow the VIP around behind you while keeping your weapon drawn with the opposite hand.



ATTACK RESPONSE: VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Diagonal Arm Sweep

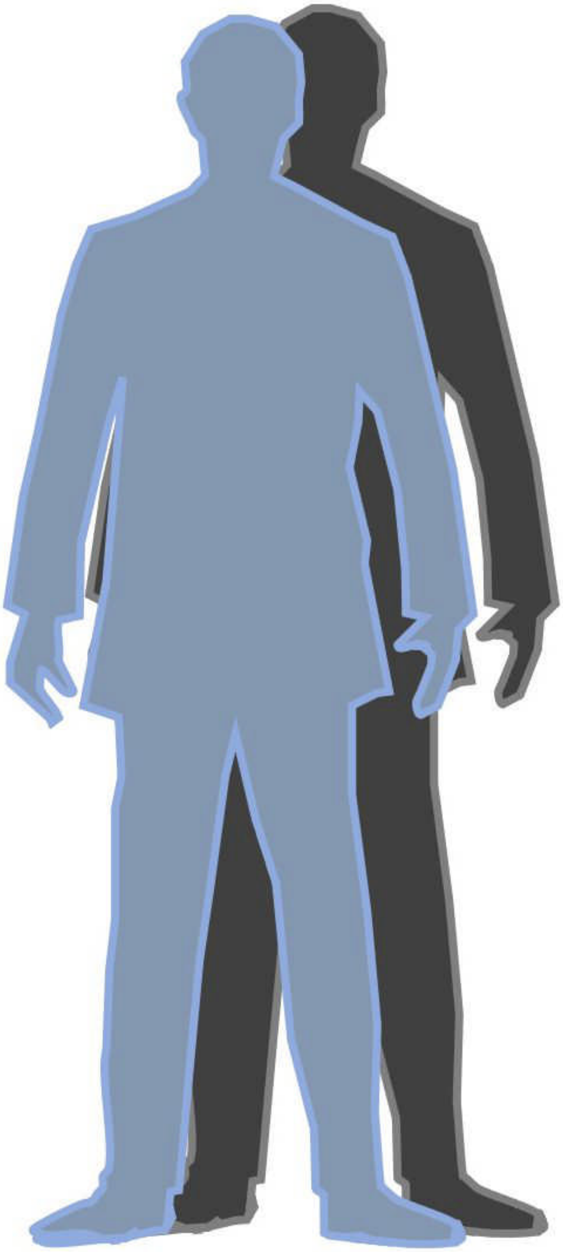
This technique allows you to get the VIP back and out of the way while you step in front to face a potential threat. This method requires the use of only one arm so you may have your weapon drawn in the opposite hand. The technique is essentially a body push while stepping around in front of the VIP. To perform this technique, step around the VIP and make body contact with the VIP's outer upper arm with your forearm. Push the VIP away using your upper body as you bring your bent left arm across the VIP's chest area. Extend your bent arm firmly as you direct the VIP back toward safety. Maintain good balance as you push, using your body to smoothly displace the VIP's body in a controlled manner. This technique can also be useful in a situation where the VIP gets into a confrontation and needs to be separated and held-back while the detail diffuses the situation.



ATTACK RESPONSE: VIP CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Step Around (No Physical Contact)

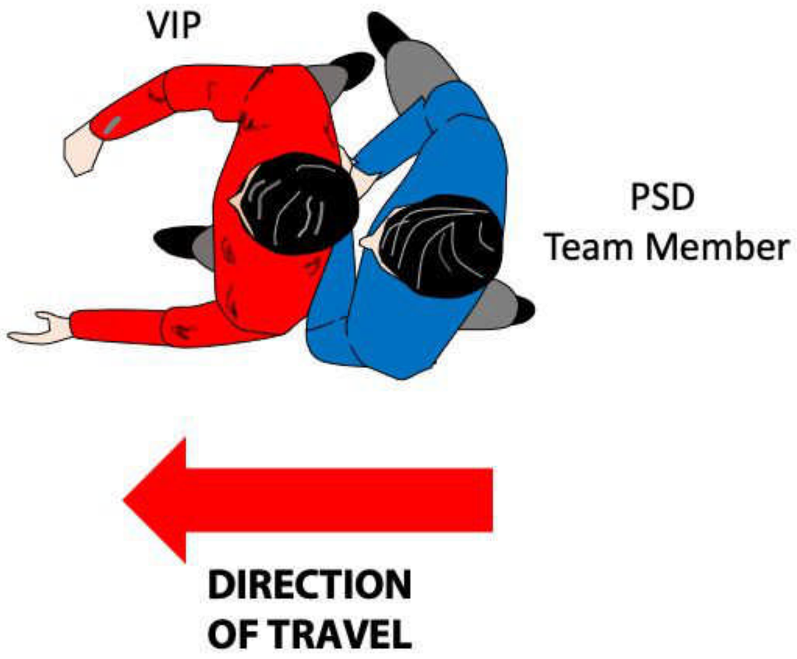
This technique is a simple way to place yourself between the VIP and a potential threat. The technique requires no hands, leaving both hands free to control your weapon or deal with a threat. To perform this technique, step around the VIP while making no actual physical contact. Take a wide quick step with your outside leg and at the same time, step forward and around the VIP with your inner leg. This will put you in front of the VIP to provide body coverage and deal with potential threats to the front.



ATTACK RESPONSE: EVACUATION TECHNIQUES

Two-Handed Push Evacuation

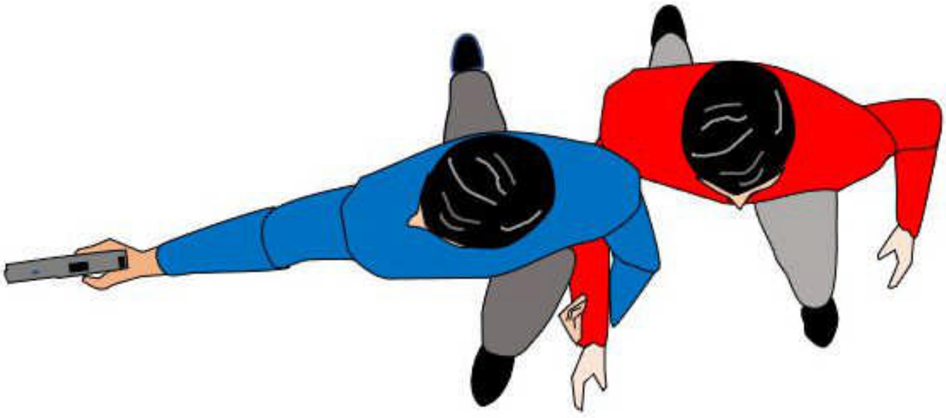
Like all single person techniques, you may execute this technique as a singleton detail or as part of a larger protective detail. Controlling the VIP with two hands from behind gives you the best control over the VIP but prevents you from drawing your weapon. This technique can also expose the VIP to threats from the front. Therefore, it is best to use this technique when helping the VIP to move quickly away from a threat that is to the rear of the formation. It is also safer to use this technique when part of a larger detail since other detail members can draw weapons if needed to deal with threats. To control the VIP, use the Two-Handed Body Control technique explained earlier in this section. Use one arm to secure and push downward on the VIP's upper shoulder area while you grab and secure the belt or waist area with the other hand. The palm of the hand securing the waistline should be facing up.



ATTACK RESPONSE: EVACUATION TECHNIQUES

Flank Protection Evacuation

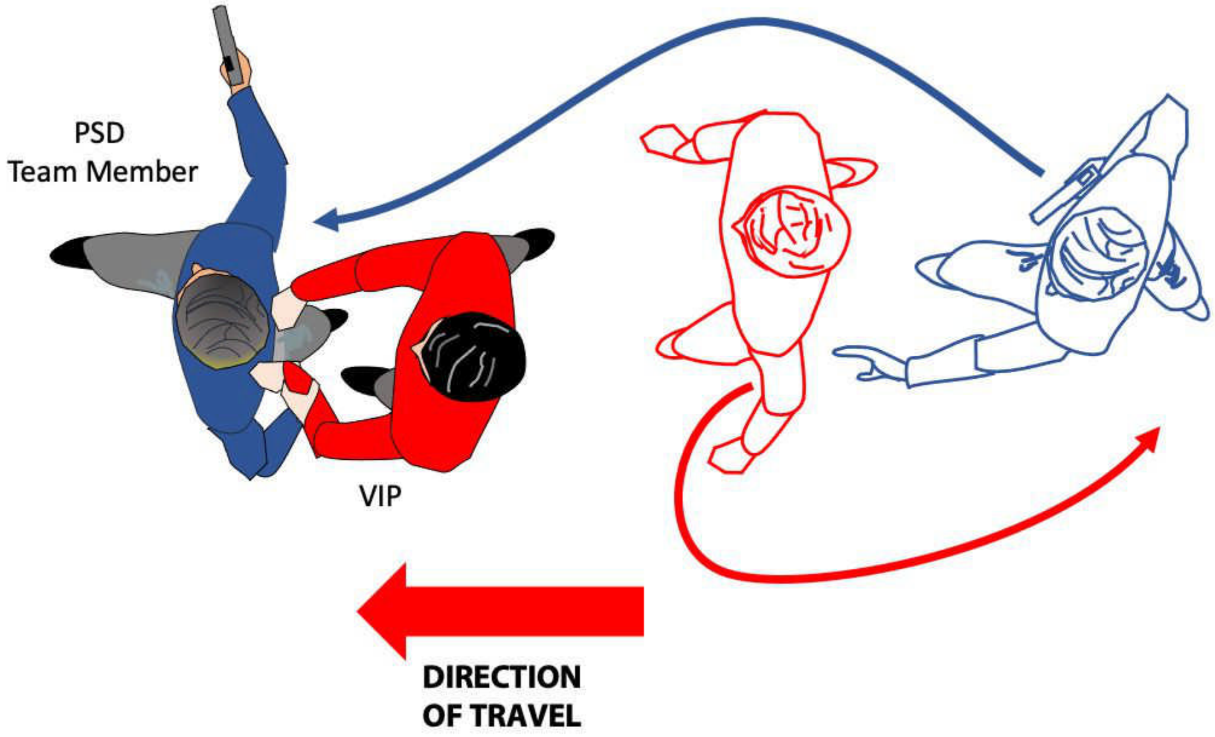
This technique allows you to move quickly with the VIP with your weapon drawn, while providing coverage to either side of the VIP/formation. Reach your arm around the VIP's arm and maintain firm control of the VIP's body movement by pinning the VIP's arm against your side. Although, the preferred technique is pining the VIP's arm underneath your arm, you can also simply grab any part of the arm or piece of clothing that is accessible. This technique provides less control but allows you to employ your weapon and deal with threats to the left or right. This technique may be used by a singleton detail or as part of a larger detail.



ATTACK RESPONSE: EVACUATION TECHNIQUES

One-Handed Pull Evacuation

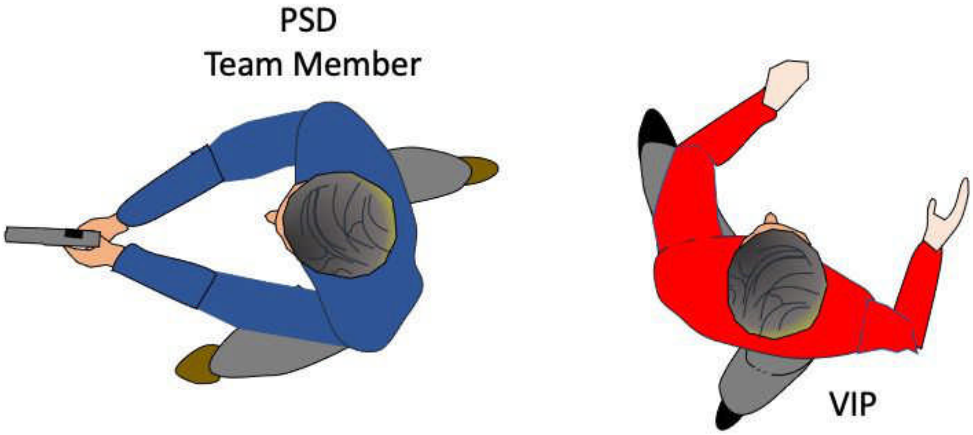
To execute this evacuation technique, you will start by employing the Inverted Turn VIP control technique from earlier in this section. From a position behind the VIP, execute the Inverted Turn and swing the VIP around behind you as you step forward. Maintain control of the VIP's wrist and guide it to your own belt. This technique allows you to use your weapon and also shields the VIP from threats to the front. Therefore, you should generally transition to this technique whenever a threat appears to the front. When employing this technique, it is also possible to let go of the VIP's wrist after instructing the VIP to hold on tightly to your belt. While this offers less positive control and the VIP might panic and let go, it will allow you to use both hands momentarily. As with other evacuation techniques, you may execute the one-handed pull as a singleton detail or as part of a larger detail.



ATTACK RESPONSE: EVACUATION TECHNIQUES

Brief Separation

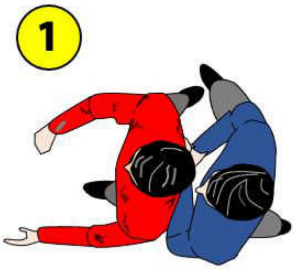
In some cases, the OIC or PSD member controlling the VIP might need to let go of the VIP and separate briefly in order to deal with a threat or engage targets. The detail member might also need to break away to quickly scout ahead for danger, clear around a corner or check that a room is safe before entering. While brief separation might sometimes be necessary, it places the VIP at increased risk. Ideally, the VIP should not be left alone for long. The brief separation technique becomes less necessary with a larger detail since the OIC can remain with the VIP while other detail members separate to deal with threats.

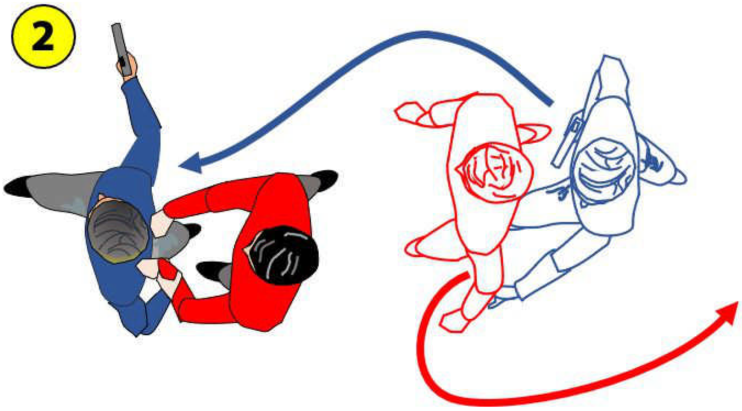


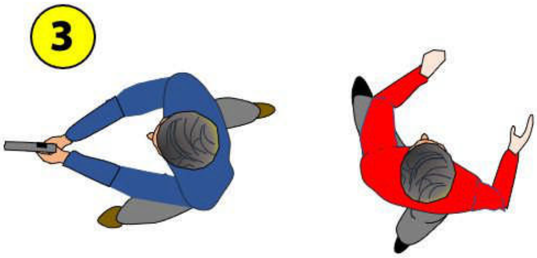
ATTACK RESPONSE: EVACUATION TECHNIQUES

Combination of Evacuation Techniques

When conducting an evacuation, it is likely that you will need to combine a number of the techniques just described as you react to the situation. For example, you might begin with the two-handed push technique as you move the VIP quickly away from a threat. However, before entering the safe haven, you will transition to the one-handed pull to allow you to be the first into the room. Once in the safe haven, you might need to separate from the VIP briefly to engage targets, check the room for threats, close doors or provide rear security. When it is time to move, you will need to take physical control of the VIP once again. These principles apply to both a singleton detail and a larger detail.



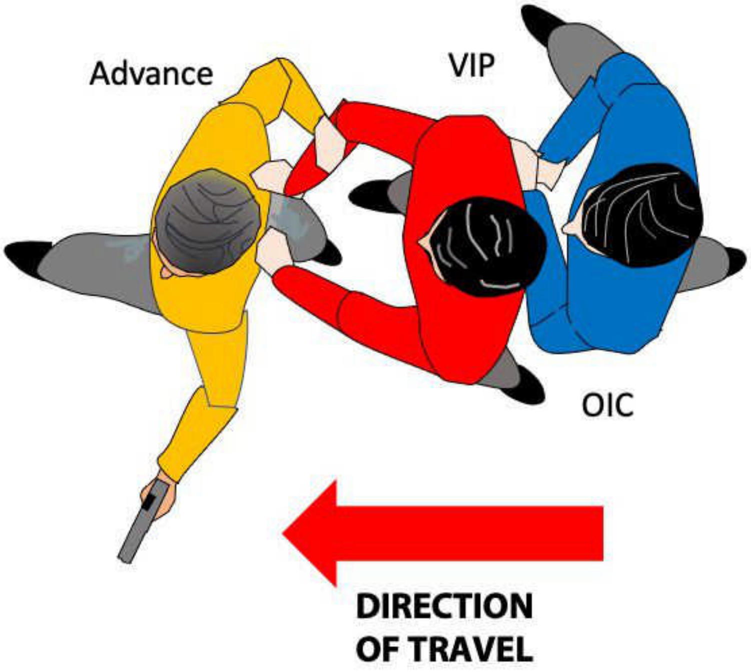




ATTACK RESPONSE: DETAIL EVACUATION

Two-Person Contact Evacuation

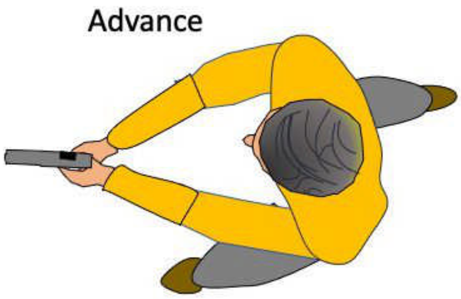
If you have at least two people in the detail, you may want to execute a two-person contact evacuation. This calls for two detail members to maintain physical contact with the VIP. The OIC executes a two-handed body control technique from the rear while the Advance executes a one-handed pull from the front. This technique offers excellent control of the VIP and provides good body coverage from the front and rear. However, moving in this formation can be slightly slower and difficult to coordinate. It is possible that in a high stress situation, people might step on each other's feet and stumble or trip.

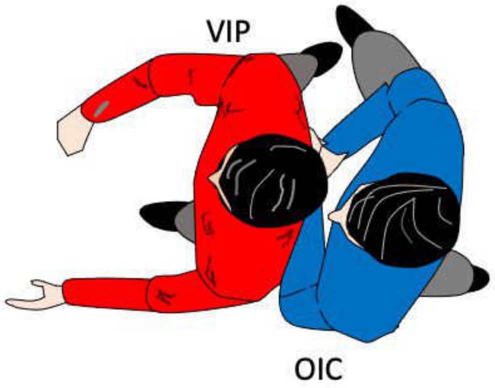


ATTACK RESPONSE: DETAIL EVACUATION

Two-Person Advance Lead Evacuation

If you have at least two people in the detail, you can execute an Advance Lead technique. The OIC maintains control of the VIP using a two-handed body control technique. The Advance then breaks away and pushes forward. This technique can be useful if you need to scout for a safe area or check for potential threats up ahead. It is important however for the advance to remain in visual contact with the rest of the detail.

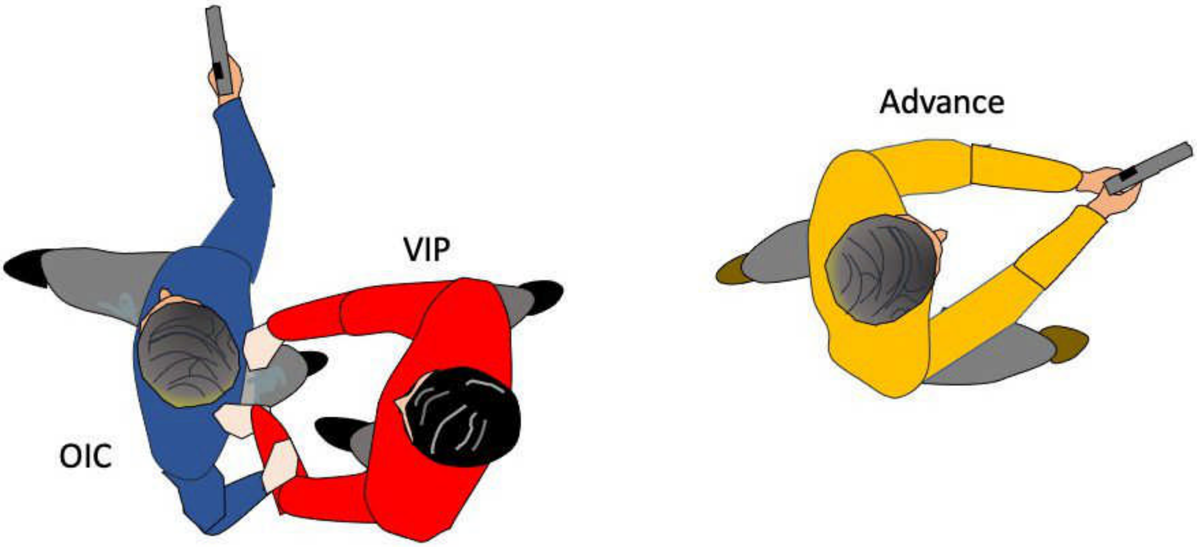




ATTACK RESPONSE: DETAIL EVACUATION

One-Handed Pull with Rear Security

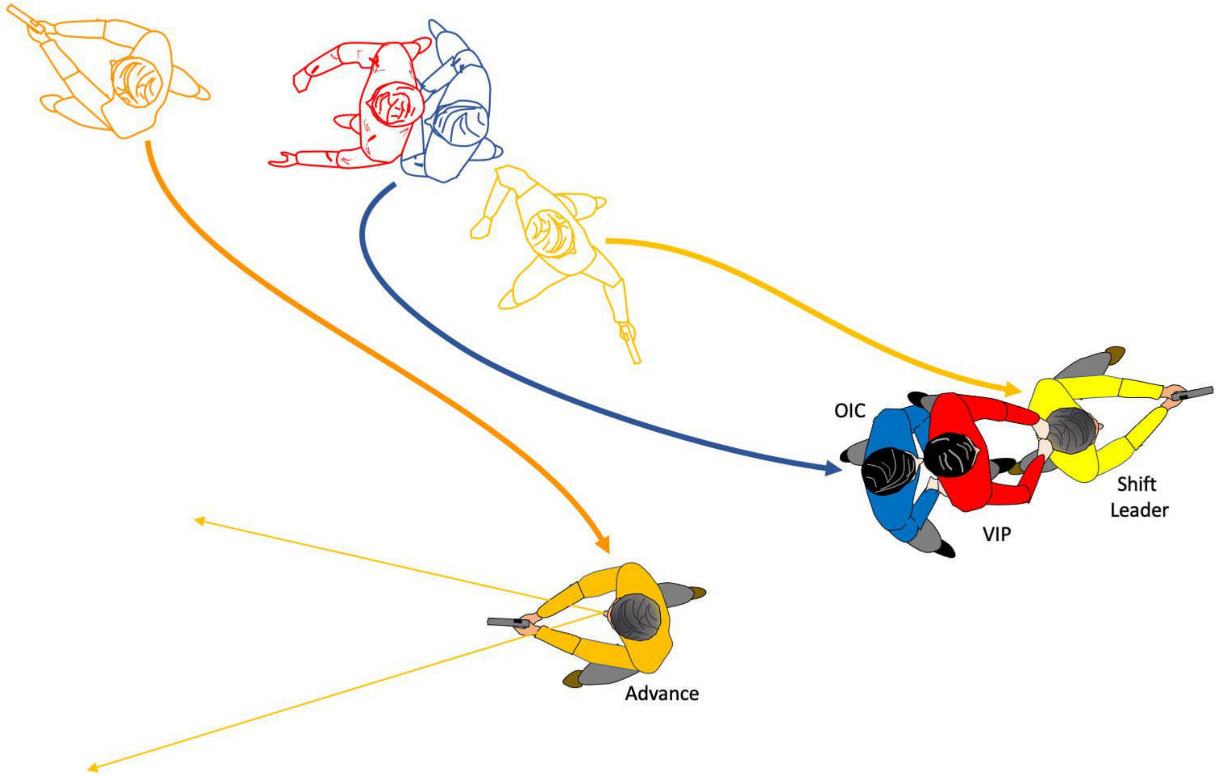
Another option with a detail that has two or more members is for the OIC to use the one-handed pull while other detail members provide coverage to the rear or flanks. This technique can be useful in a situation when there are threats both to the rear and to the front. The technique also allows both/all detail members to have their weapons drawn.



ATTACK RESPONSE: DETAIL EVACUATION

Three-Person Evacuation

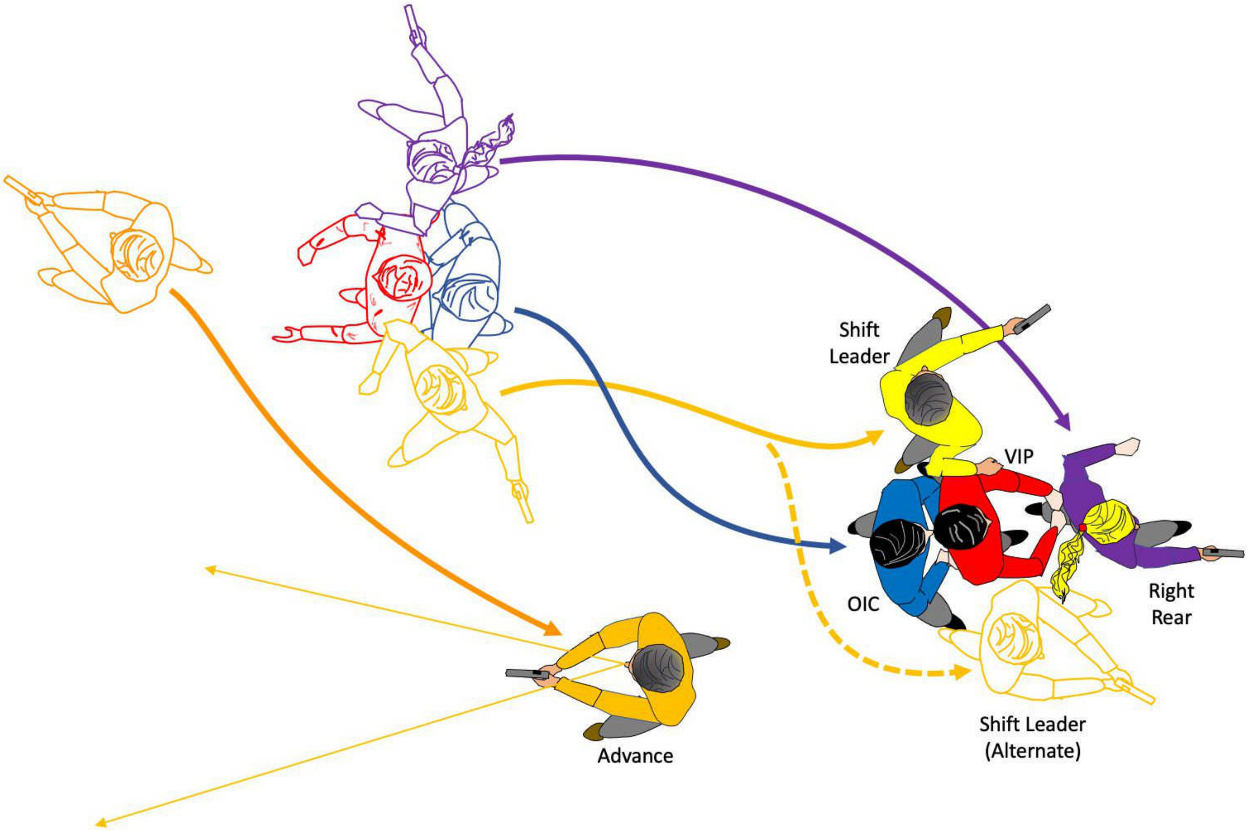
When employing a three-person detail, it is possible to conduct an evacuation using any combination of the control and evacuation techniques just described. Practice often and use your judgement to determine which techniques are best for a given situation. In the example below, the Advance addresses a threat to the front as the detail breaks contact, turns to the left, and moves to safety. The SL and OIC then conduct a two-person contact evacuation to lead the VIP to safety. Note that this is only one possible application of techniques. Depending on the situation, the SL may also move ahead of the TL and VIP to clear the way to safety. It is also important that the Advance not remain behind for too long and become separated from the detail.



ATTACK RESPONSE: DETAIL EVACUATION

Four-Person Evacuation

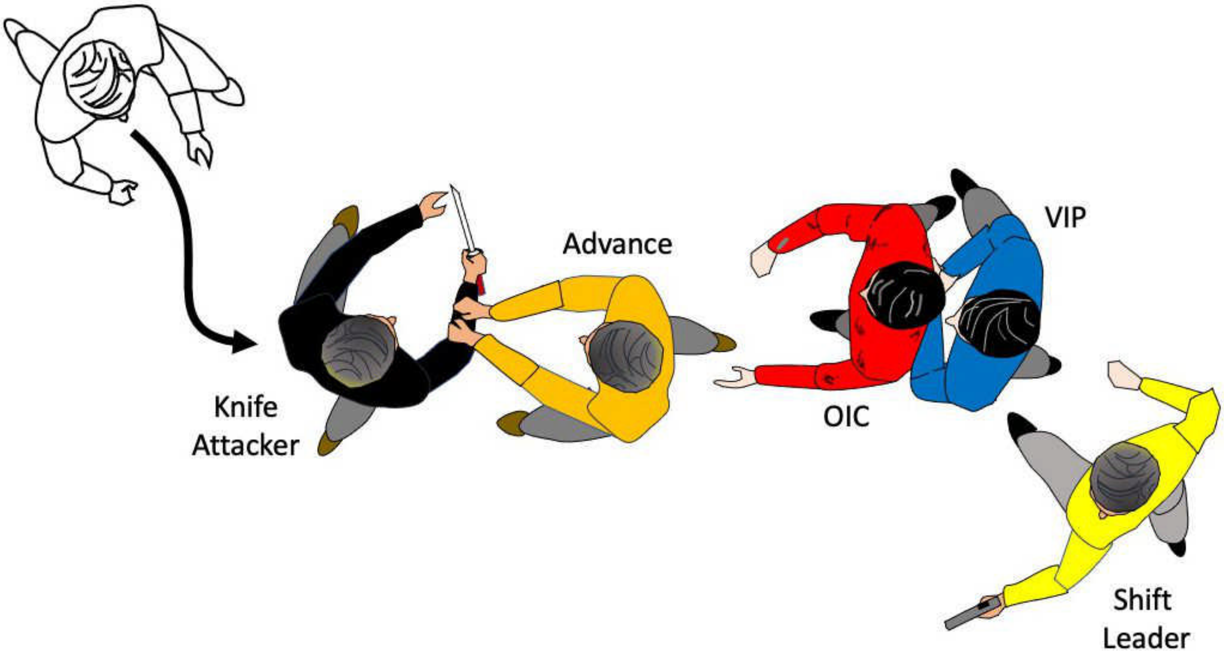
When employing a three-person detail, it is possible to conduct an evacuation using any combination of the control and evacuation techniques just described. Practice often and use your judgement to determine which techniques are best for a given situation. In the example below, the Advance addresses a threat to the front as the detail turns left to break contact. The Right Rear (RR) takes the lead and guides the formation to safety. Depending on the situation, the SL may move to the left or right (heavy left or right) of the VIP if there is more danger to one side or another. In addition, the Advance can also move ahead of the detail to clear the way to the safe haven or motorcade.



ATTACK RESPONSE: PHYSICAL ATTACK

STEP 1 – Control the Attacker

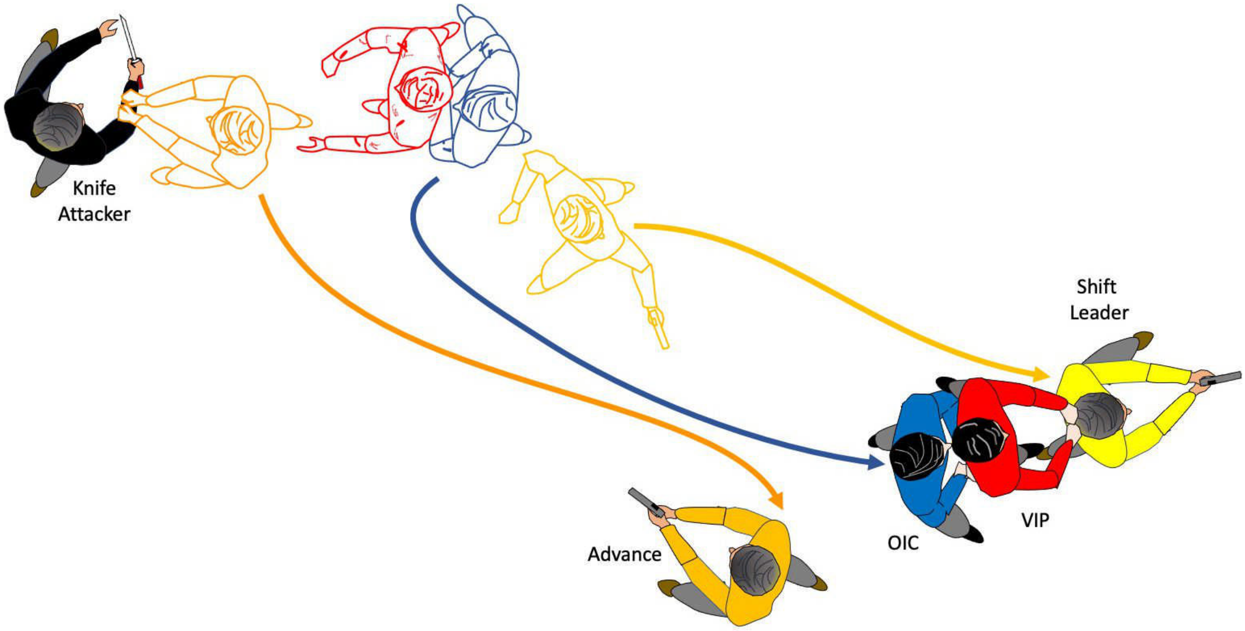
Conducting an evacuation when facing a physical attack presents some unique challenges. When under fire from a distance, or facing a threat that is harassing or taunting the VIP, it is generally possible for the entire detail to break contact and quickly create distance from the threat. However, an aggressive physical attacker may press the attack and chase the detail, trying to get to the VIP. In order to deal with this type of threat, one or more detail members might need to momentarily remain behind to neutralize and fix the threat and prevent the threat from giving chase. In the example below, the Advance addresses the threat to the front using empty-hand techniques as the detail breaks contact, turns to the left, and moves to safety. In this case, the Advance did not have time to get to his/her gun and had to block the knife attack immediately, controlling the threat and giving the rest of the detail time to evacuate.



ATTACK RESPONSE: PHYSICAL ATTACK

STEP 2 – Break Contact

Continuing the example from the previous page, the Advance maintains control of the attacker long enough to allow the detail to evacuate safely. The Advance then breaks contact with the attacker and draws his weapon to engage the attacker if necessary. Regardless of what empty-hand technique or defensive tactics you use, the general formula for responding to a physical attack remains similar. Some detail members need to focus on fixing and neutralizing the threat while the rest of the detail evacuates to safety.



FOOT MOVEMENT
Empty-Hand Defensive Techniques

Empty-hand fighting can be considered one of the most critical skill sets for any protection mission. This fact has remained true throughout history. In recent times, some units or organizations have downplayed the need for empty-hand techniques and focused exclusively on shooting and firearms tactics. In reality, the advent of firearms has not made empty-hand skills less important but has rather made them more important. This is because it can be necessary to react instinctively to an armed attacker when there is no time to get to your own gun. It takes great fighting skill to defeat an opponent armed with a gun.

While in some cases you might need to apply open-hand techniques in a lethal force encounter, it is also important to develop skill for dealing with non-lethal confrontations. Being able to apply the appropriate level of force in a high-stress situation requires great skill and frequent training. In some cases you may need to apply empty-hand techniques to diffuse completely non-threatening situations. For example, a fan might be so excited to shake the VIPs hand that he/she might forget to let go. To protect the VIP from embarrassment you must politely step in and break the grip to let the VIP move along.

As a general rule, it is always best to use the least amount of force that is necessary to resolve a situation. This is because even the justified use of force can appear shocking on camera and cause bad publicity repercussions for the VIP. Protecting the VIP from this sort of negative exposure is part of your job. For example, even when dealing with a violent attacker, it is better to quickly take down the attacker with a well-placed strike or joint manipulation than it is to punch the attacker repeatedly in the face and then kick him when he is down. If both responses are caught on video, the second response might be misinterpreted by the public or jury, even if the use of force was justified because of a serious threat.

Another important point to remember is that in protection operations, it is almost always preferable not to get decisively engaged with an attacker. The quicker you can neutralize a threat and return to the VIP the better. In some cases you may need to stop or break away momentarily to ensure an attacker does not attempt to chase the VIP but as soon as you can, break contact with the attacker and return to the protective formation. In many cases, you cannot be sure how many attackers there are and what kinds of weapons they have at their disposal. A single attack may only be part of a larger, coordinated attack. For all of these reasons it is critical not to become decisively engaged but rather to focus on protecting the VIP.

It is also important to learn to seamlessly combine your ability to execute empty-hand techniques with your ability to employ your firearm. In a lethal force situation, your firearm should almost always be the first option. However, as mentioned before, you might not have time to get to your gun in some lethal force encounters and you must therefore be ready to apply empty-hand techniques. In addition, as already discussed, many situations will not call for lethal force which means you will need to be able to apply empty hand techniques effectively with good judgement. In these situations, always remain aware that the threat level can quickly escalate to lethal force.

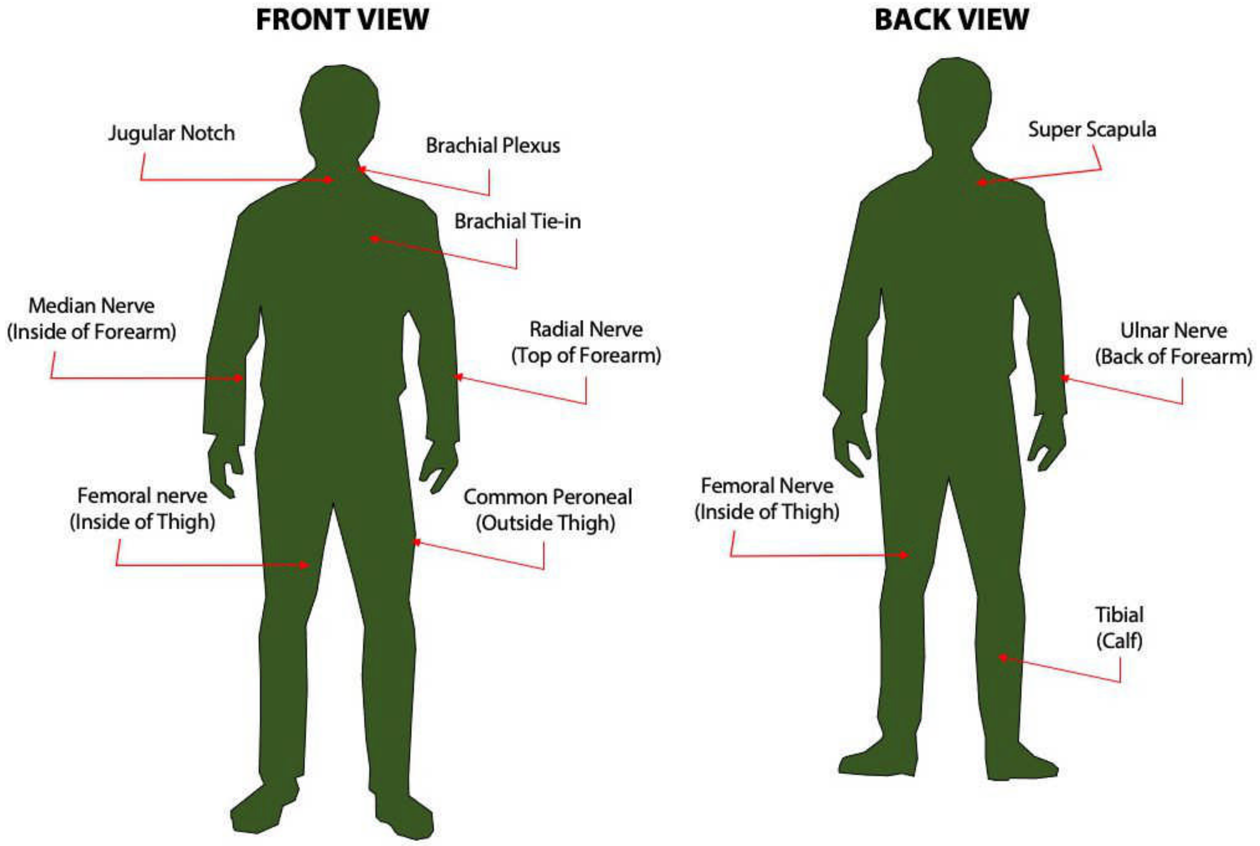
The following techniques offer only a few, simple examples of empty-hand responses to common scenarios. Applying empty-hand skills to protection work is difficult and complex. Special Tactics plans to publish a separate book devoted entirely to this subject. The goal of this section is just to provide a starting point and to show how empty-hand techniques fit into the larger picture of VIP protection.

The techniques explained here are examples of three different types of techniques. The first allows you to stop an attacker's momentum while remaining close to the VIP. The second allows you to fix and/or neutralize the attacker but requires you to break away from the VIP or formation. The final involves taking the attacker down in a more aggressive manner. While the techniques in this book focus on simple push, grab and trip movements, to counter a real-world attack you might use a number of different techniques including joint/head manipulation, throws, strikes or a combination of these. The techniques in this section are also demonstrated in the context of a singleton detail. However, all of these techniques can also be executed as part of a larger detail.

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: TARGETS ON THE HUMAN BODY

Targets for Non-Lethal Countermeasures

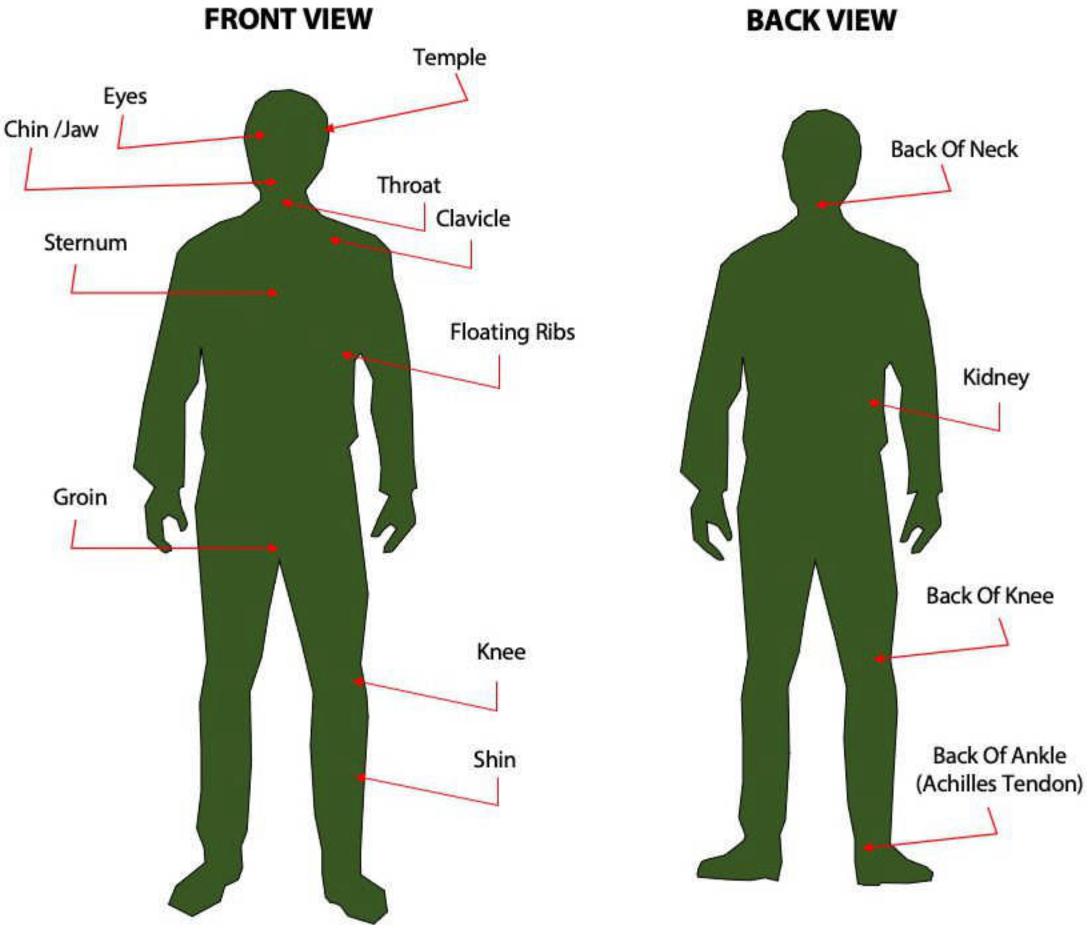
There are many targets, pressure points and vital areas on the human body that relate to empty-hand fighting and defensive tactics. However, the selection of targets below could be considered some of the best targets for protection missions since they are easy to identify and have a powerful effect on the adversary even if you do not strike the target precisely in the right place. The targets below are particularly useful in a non-lethal force scenario where you want to control or disable an attacker without lethal force. You can strike these targets in many different ways, primarily using the hands and feet. However, be careful to use proper technique when delivering any strike to avoid accidentally injuring yourself. If you injure your hands that might make you unable to operate your firearm which could put the detail at risk. Remember that effectiveness in empty-hand combat requires practice and conditioning.


FRONT VIEW
Jugular Notch
Brachial Plexus
Brachial Tie-in
Median Nerve (Inside of Forearm)
Radial Nerve (Top of Forearm)
Femoral nerve (Inside of Thigh)
Common Peroneal (Outside Thigh)
BACK VIEW
Super Scapula
Ulnar Nerve (Back of Forearm)
Femoral Nerve (Inside of Thigh)
Tibial (Calf)

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: TARGETS ON THE HUMAN BODY

Targets for Lethal Countermeasures

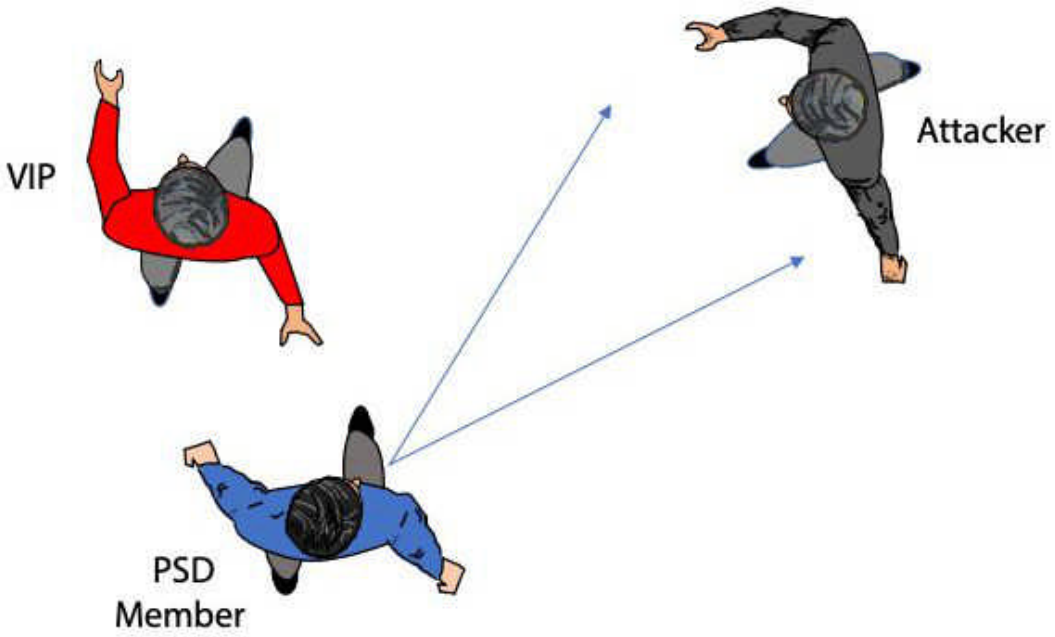
The targets below can be considered lethal-force targets. This does not mean that striking someone in these areas will necessarily kill them, but rather that a powerful, effective strike to these areas can cause serious injury or death. You should be careful when striking some of these targets if you are not in a lethal-force encounter and avoid other targets like the eyes, neck and throat altogether. However, if faced with a lethal-force situation, you should go directly for any target that presents itself as quickly as possible to eliminate the threat. In a life-and-death situation, it is better for a hostile attacker to die than the VIP or a member of the protective detail.


FRONT VIEW
Temple
Eyes
Chin /Jaw
Throat
Clavicle
Sternum
Floating Ribs
Groin
Knee
Shin
BACK VIEW
Back Of Neck
Kidney
Back Of Knee
Back Of Ankle (Achilles Tendon)

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: PUSH-AWAY

STEP 1: Identify the Threat

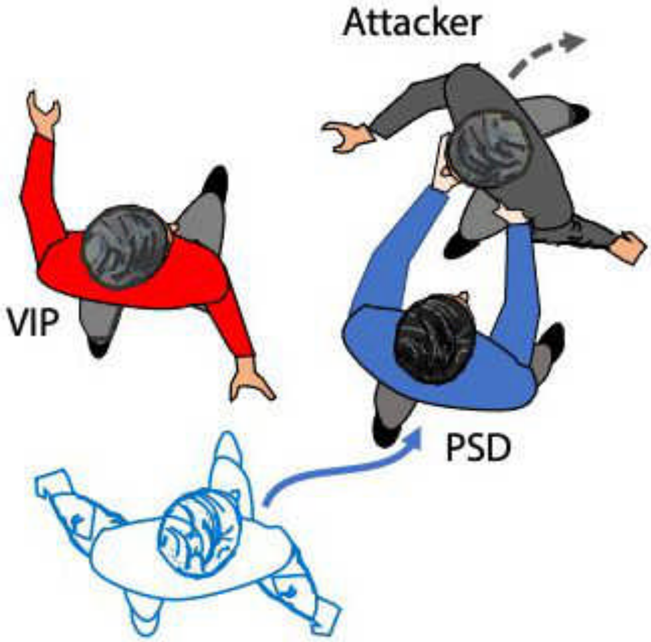
The push away technique is an example of a technique that allows you to block, stop or deter an attacker without having to leave the VIP or protective formation. In this example, the PSD member executes a simple push but in other situations, you can apply the same concept using a different technique such as a strike. The key point is that you want to remain close to the VIP or formation and not get decisively engaged with the attacker. The disadvantage is that without controlling the attacker, the attacker can continue to chase the VIP and press the attack. The first step of the technique is to identify the threat and position yourself to intercept. Being in the right position and executing the technique with the correct timing is critical for success. It is therefore important to identify the potential threat as early as possible.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: PUSH-AWAY

STEP 2: Control the Attacker

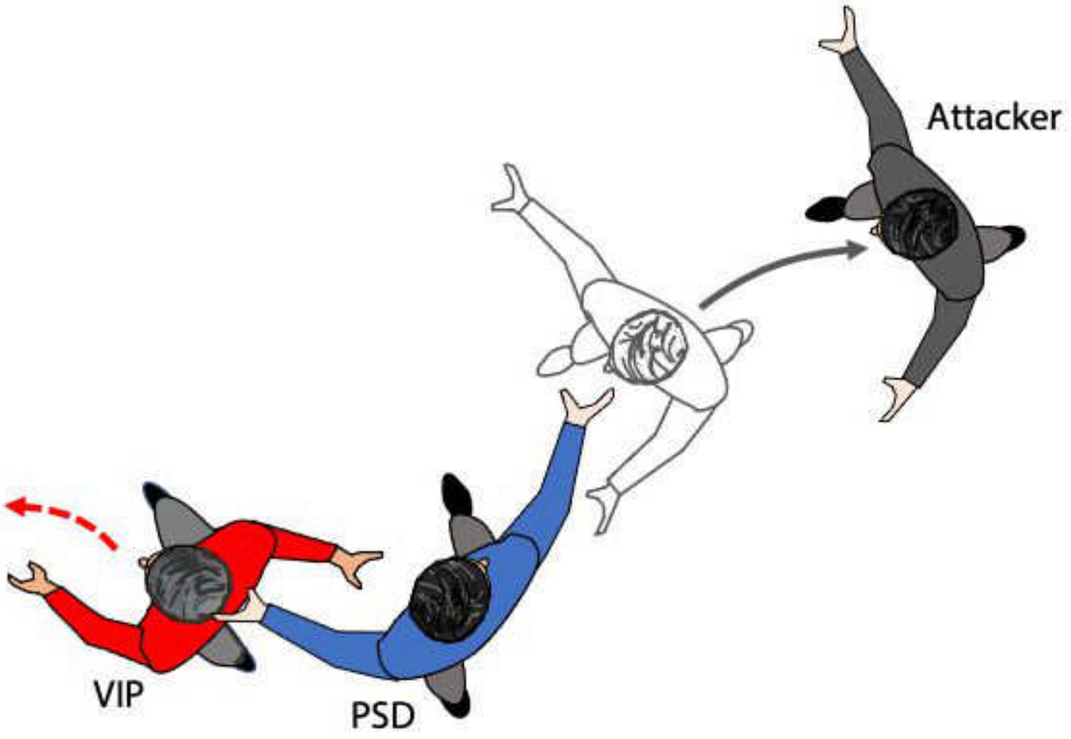
As the attacker commits and moves to enter the VIP's close security circle, move quickly at an angle that will allow you to intercept the attack, placing yourself between the attacker and the VIP. Use your hands and/or control techniques to stop the attacker's momentum. You should generally accompany this action with verbal warnings or commands, telling the attacker to step back and stay away from the VIP.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: PUSH-AWAY

STEP 3: Push the Attacker Away

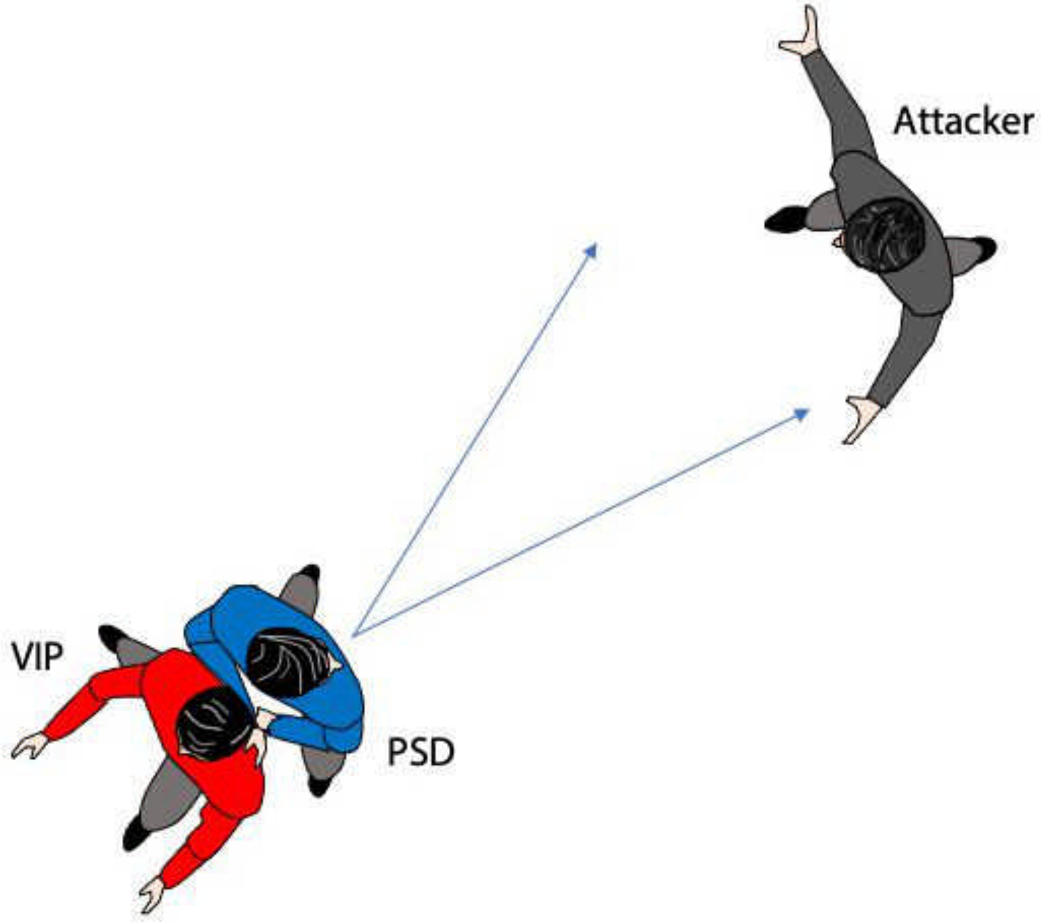
After controlling the attacker and stopping his/her momentum, push the attacker back forcefully with one hand or both hands while regaining control of the VIP. Move the VIP in the opposite direction of the attacker and continue to deliver verbal warnings for the attacker to stay back. In some cases, if the attacker is not hostile but rather a rowdy fan trying to get an autograph, it might be appropriate to be gentler while executing this technique. Still push the attacker back hard but you can follow up the push with a smile and/or polite command to please stand back. Use the amount of force appropriate for the situation, knowing that excessive force caught on camera could reflect poorly on the VIP.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: PUSH-AWAY

STEP 4: Control the VIP and Break Contact

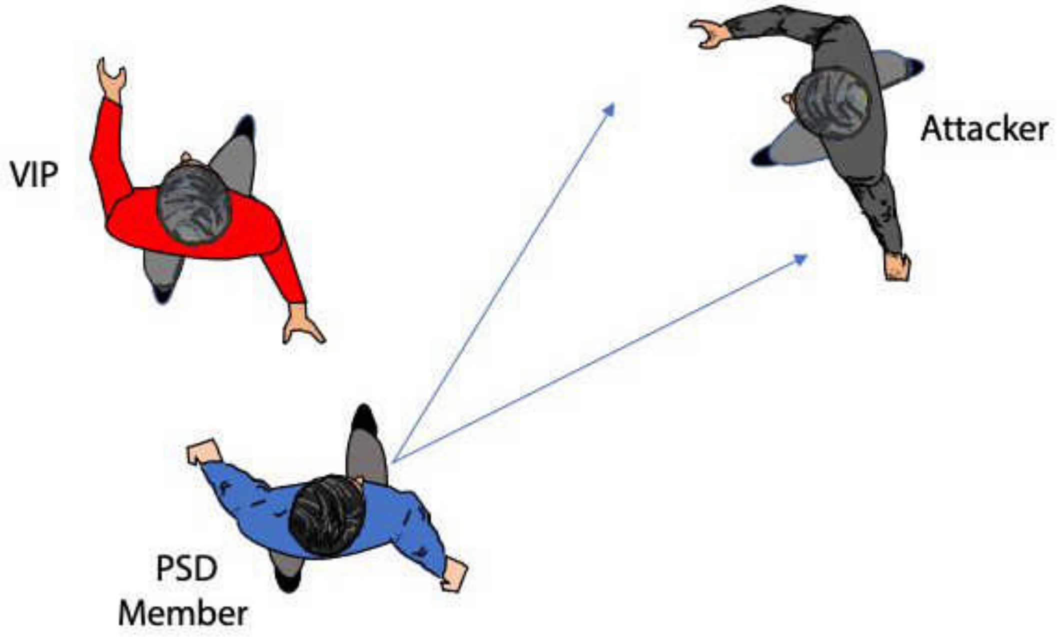
After pushing the attacker back, take control of the VIP and move quickly in the opposite direction of the attack. Keep eyes on the attacker as you create distance to make sure the attacker does not attempt to pursue or execute a second attack.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: REDIRECT

STEP 1: Identify the Threat

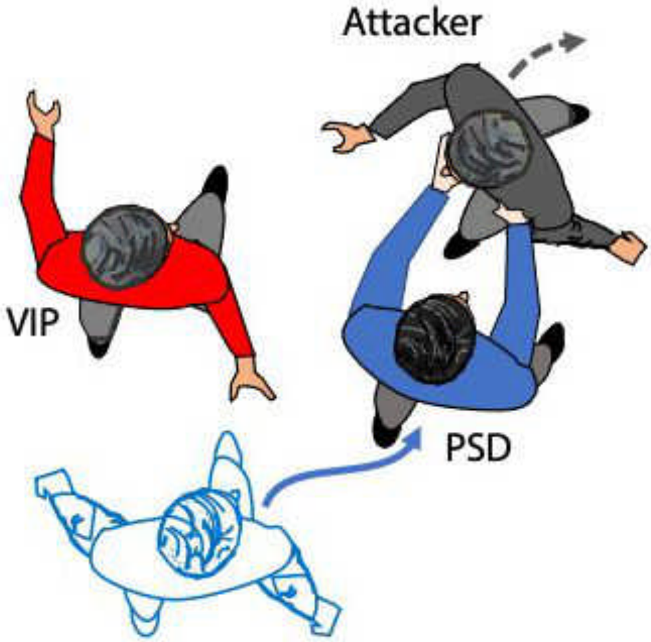
The redirect technique is an example of a technique where you momentarily break away from the VIP or formation in order to control a threat and ensure the threat does not attempt to pursue or press the attack. You can use any number of control techniques or joint manipulations to accomplish this. In this example the PSD member uses a simple arm grab/lock. The first step of the technique is to identify the threat and position yourself to intercept. Being in the right position and executing the technique with the correct timing is critical for success. It is therefore important to identify the potential threat as early as possible.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: REDIRECT

STEP 2: Control the Attacker

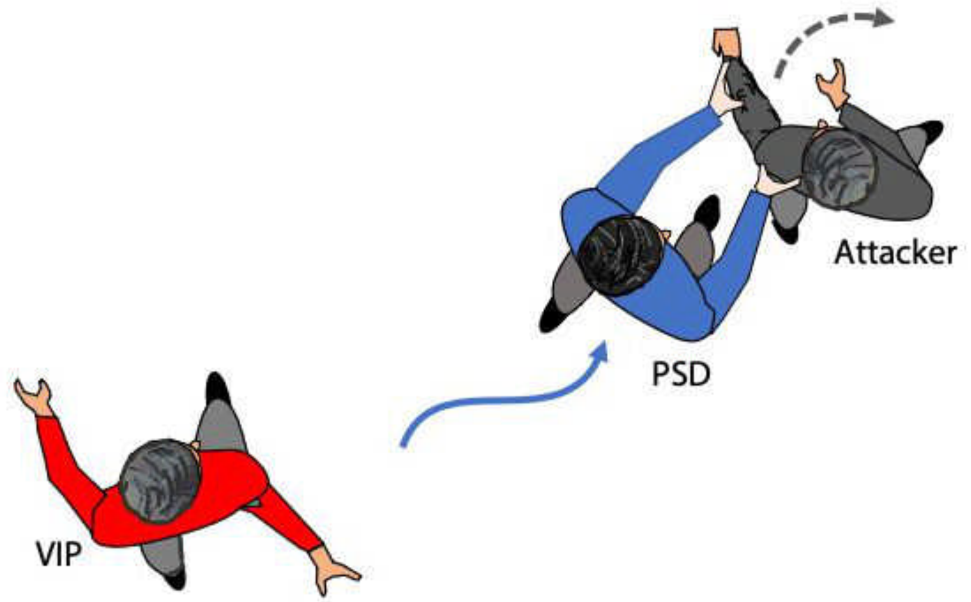
As the attacker commits and moves to enter the VIP's close security circle, move quickly at an angle that will allow you to intercept the attack, placing yourself between the attacker and the VIP. Use your hands and/or control techniques to stop the attacker's momentum. You should generally accompany this action with verbal warnings or commands, telling the attacker to step back and stay away from the VIP.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: REDIRECT

STEP 3: Redirect the Attacker

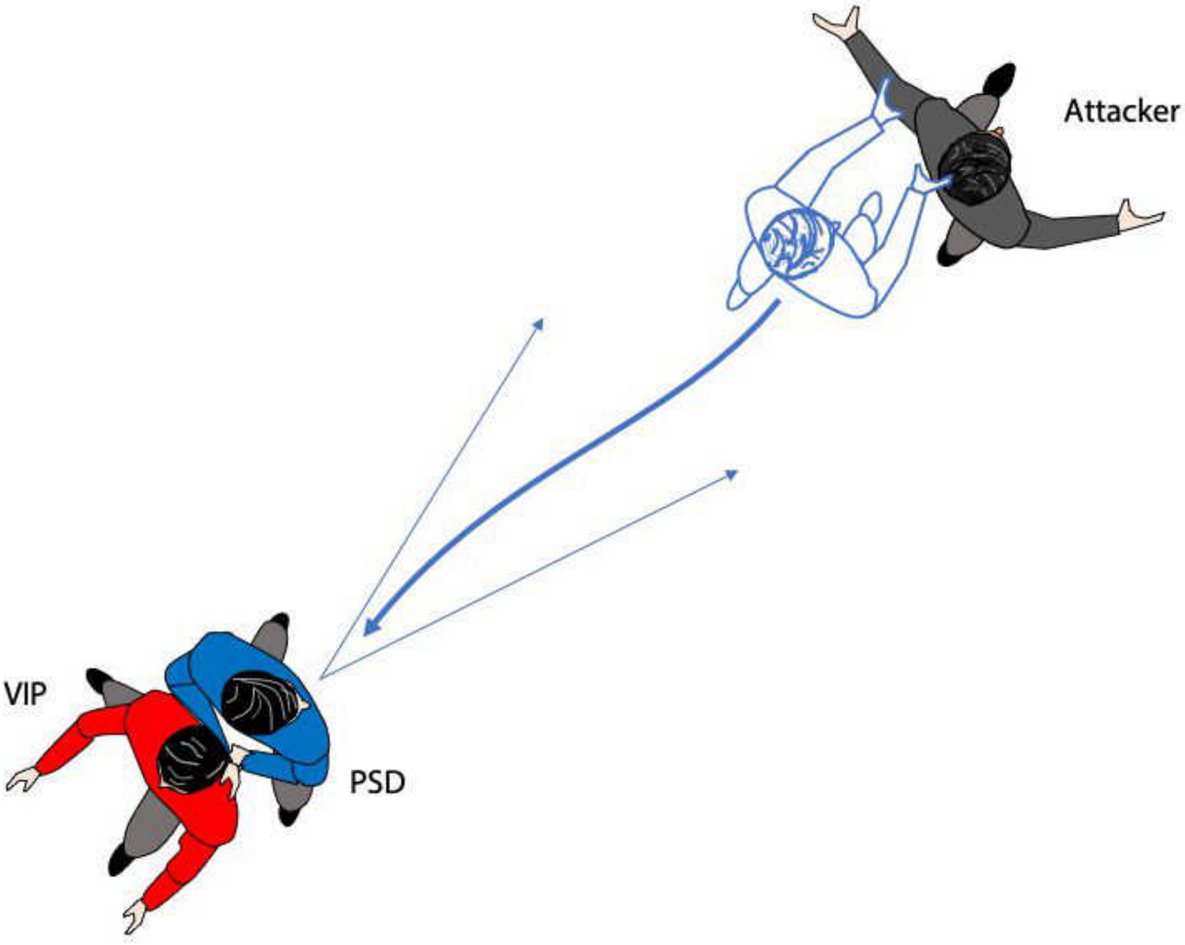
Redirect the attacker's momentum quickly away from the VIP, supplementing this action with verbal warnings as needed. Once again, you can execute this technique using a simple push, grab or pull, or you can apply joint manipulations and/or pain compliance techniques if needed.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: REDIRECT

STEP 4: Control the VIP and Break Contact

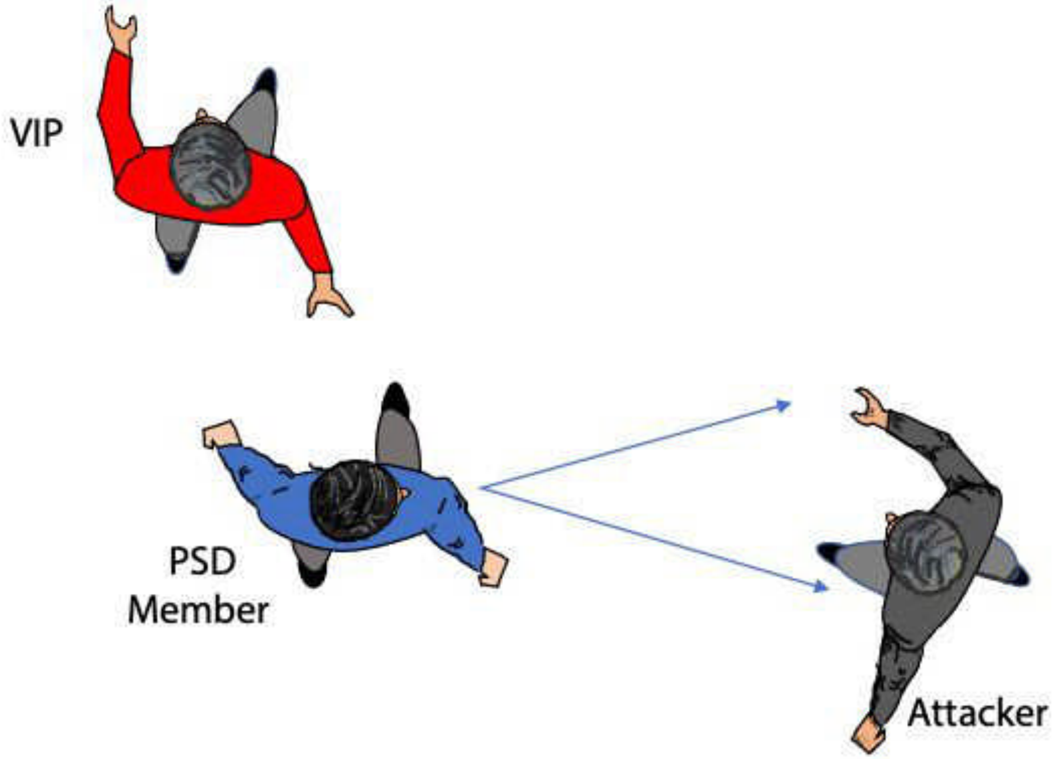
Once you have redirected the attacker to a safe distance away from the VIP, quickly move back to the formation and take control of the VIP. Move quickly in the opposite direction of the attack. Keep eyes on the attacker as you create distance to make sure the attacker does not attempt to pursue or execute a second attack.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: SWEEP OR TRIP

STEP 1: Identify the Threat

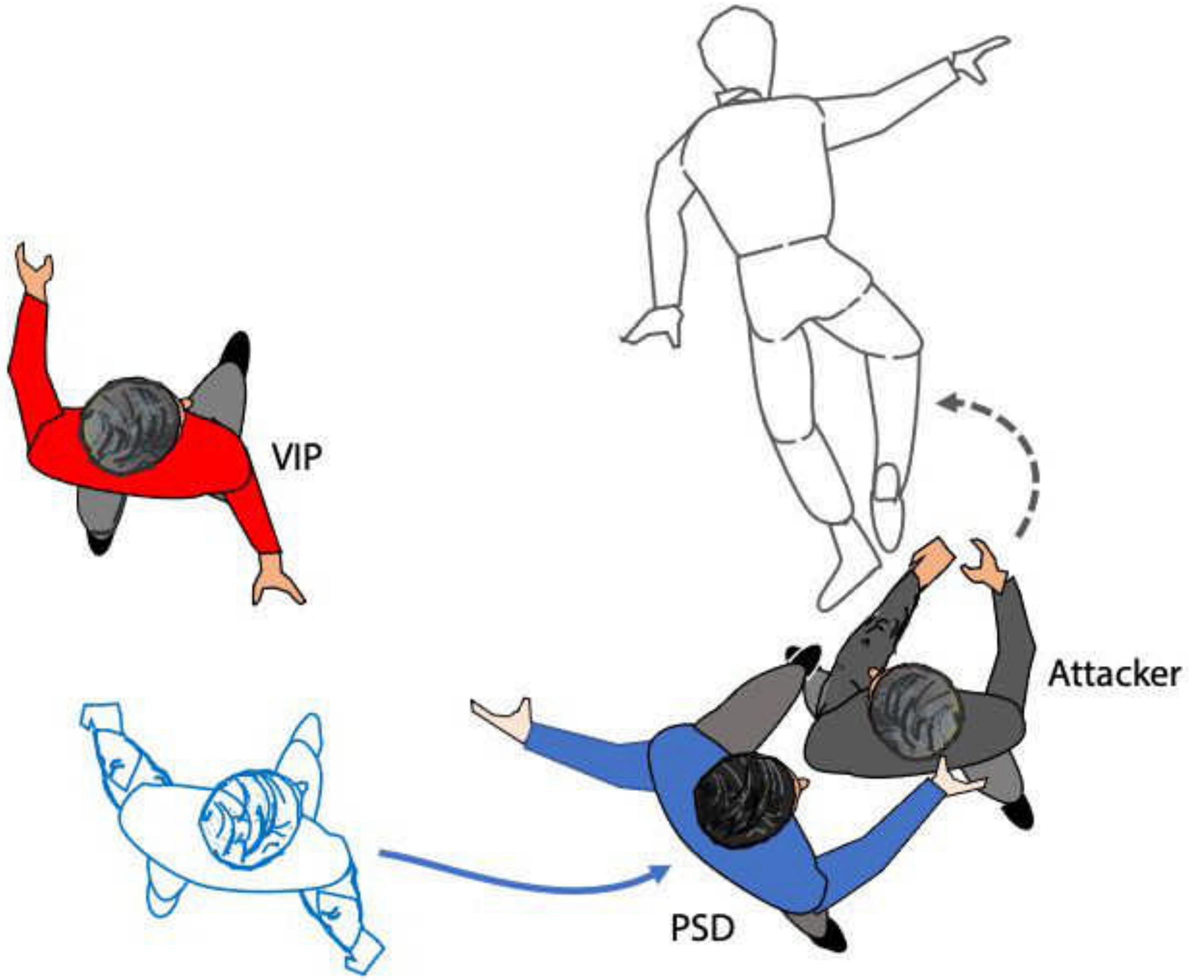
The sweep or trip technique is an example of a technique where you want to physically take down an attacker and make it more difficult for the attacker to press the attack. This technique combines many of the advantages of the previous two techniques, allowing you to stay closer to the formation while still deterring the enemy's attack. However, this technique is more aggressive and has a greater likelihood of injuring the attacker or causing negative publicity for the VIP. You can use any number of takedowns, joint manipulations and/or strikes to bring the attacker to the ground. Once again, we recommend using a level of force appropriate to the threat and the situation. In this example the PSD member uses a simple trip to drop the attacker to the ground. The first step of the technique is to identify the threat and position yourself to intercept. Being in the right position and executing the technique with the correct timing is critical for success. It is therefore important to identify the potential threat as early as possible.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: SWEEP OR TRIP

STEP 2: Trip the Attacker

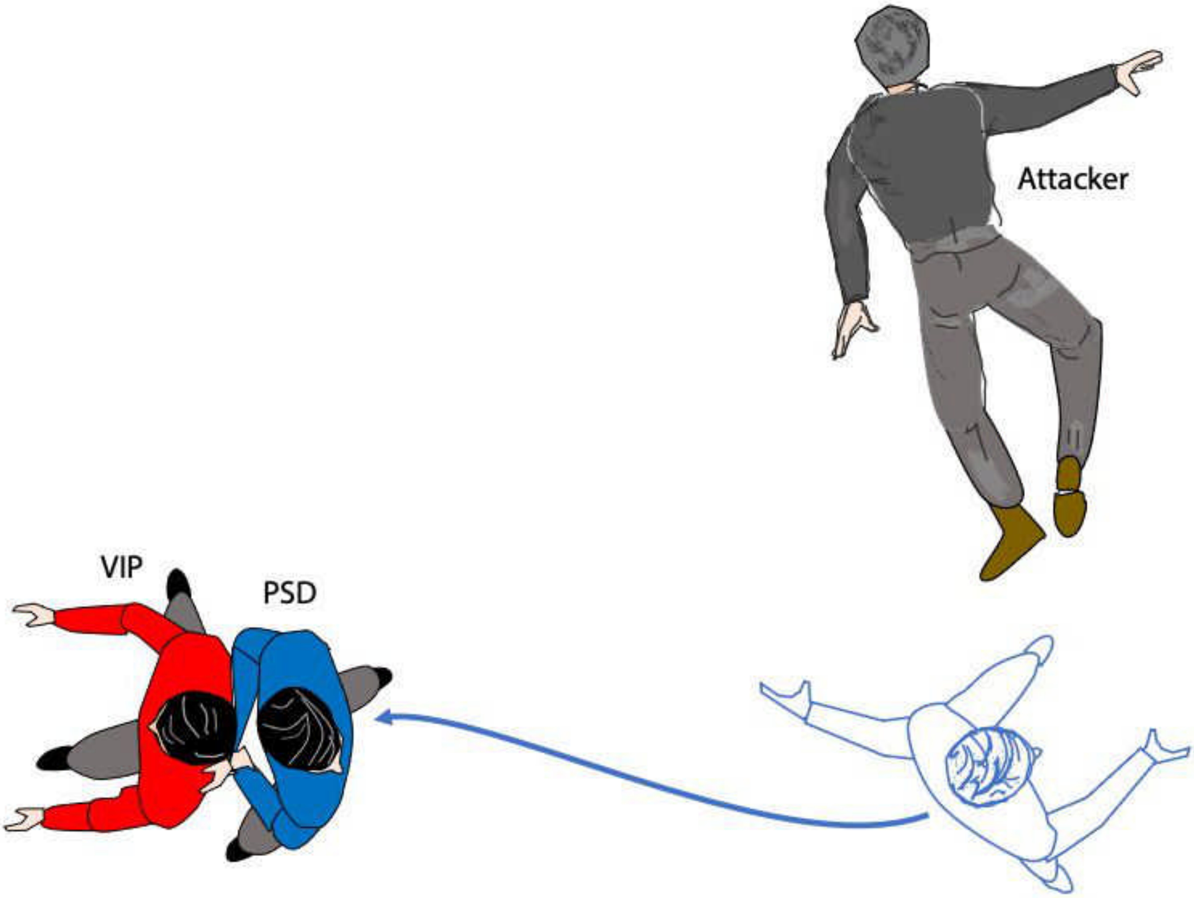
Intercept the attacker and sweep/kick the attackers foot in mid-stride while pushing the attacker's upper body forcefully in the opposite direction of the sweep. The attacker should lose balance and fall to the ground. If for some reason the attacker does not fall, ensure you are able to follow up the technique or keep the attacker at bay.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: SWEEP OR TRIP

STEP 3: Control the VIP and Break Contact

After taking down the attacker, quickly move back to the formation and take control of the VIP. Move quickly in the opposite direction of the attack. Keep eyes on the attacker as you create distance to make sure the attacker does not attempt to get up and pursue.



BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Staircases

When conducting protective operations at a venue, it is likely that the VIP will need to enter a building or structure and move around indoors. In most cases, the detail's formations, general tactics and procedures will not change dramatically but rather adjust naturally based on the surroundings. Just as detail members might reposition when moving outdoors to place themselves between the VIP and a potential danger area, when moving indoors the formation will adjust to clear open doorways, around corners or behind furniture.

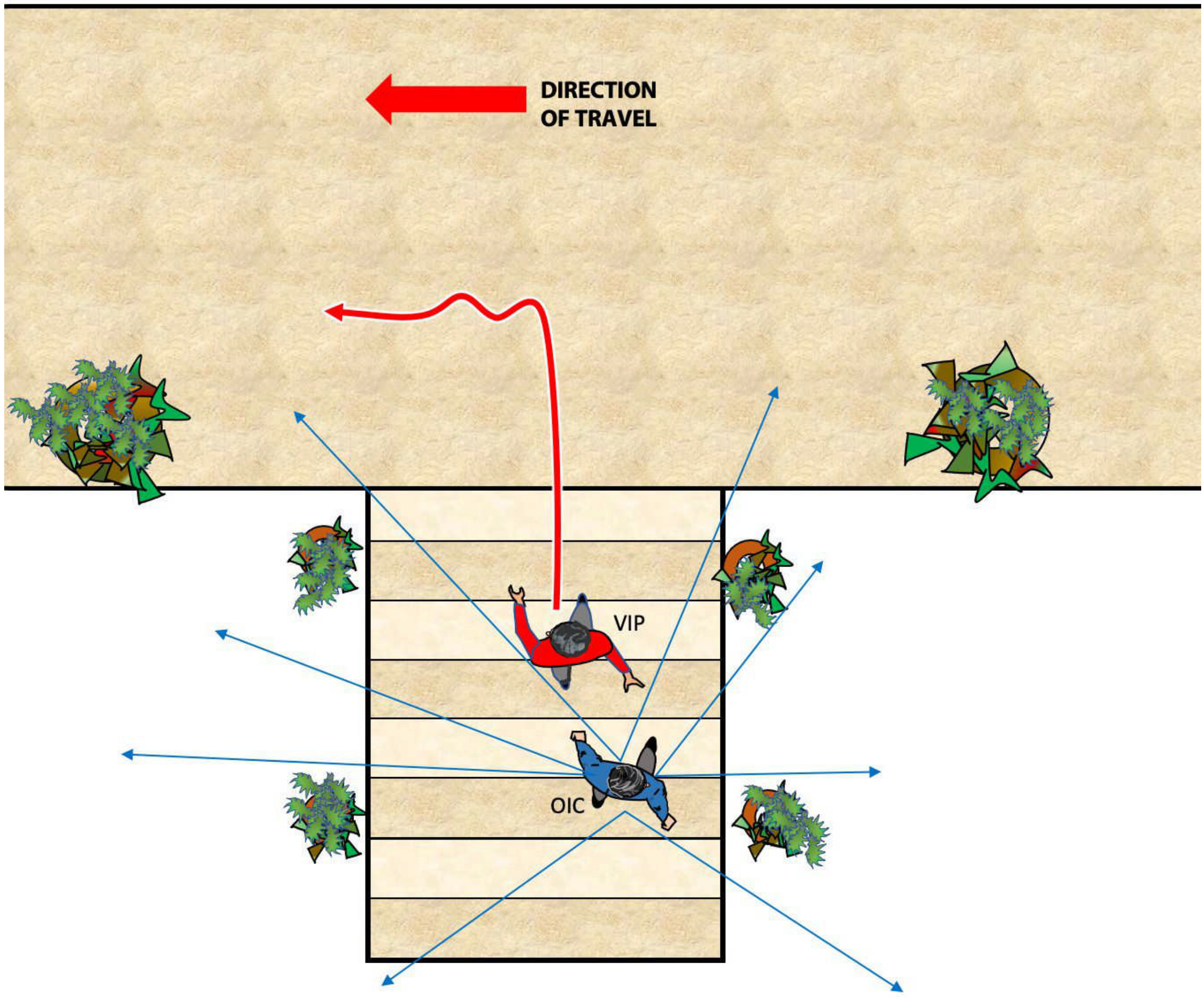
However, some interior configurations can call for more significant adjustments to the detail's formation and movements. One example is a large formal staircase. It is very common that a VIP will have to move up or down a large staircase when visiting a location. Attacks or disturbances when climbing or descending staircases can be particularly problematic since the VIP and detail are exposed and there is a greater chance that someone will trip or lose balance. Even if there is no serious attack, if the VIP trips on the staircase this can cause serious injury or embarrassment. This is particularly the case if the VIP is less sure of foot. To lessen these problem, the PSD should have already identified staircases along the VIP's path as potential danger areas and planned ahead accordingly.

The following techniques apply to moving either up or down stairs. Some of the same principles discussed in this section can also apply to other interior configurations such as large hallways or commercial stairwells. However, the formal staircase is one of the more common configurations the VIP will need to negotiate and as already mentioned, it is an interior structure that carries with it the possibility of increased risk. It is therefore important for the detail to practice moving up and down formal staircases frequently. Should the VIP come under attack while on the stairs, the detail should move the VIP to flat ground immediately and proceed to a predetermined safe haven.

STAIRCASES: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 1: Remain Alert Climbing the Staircase

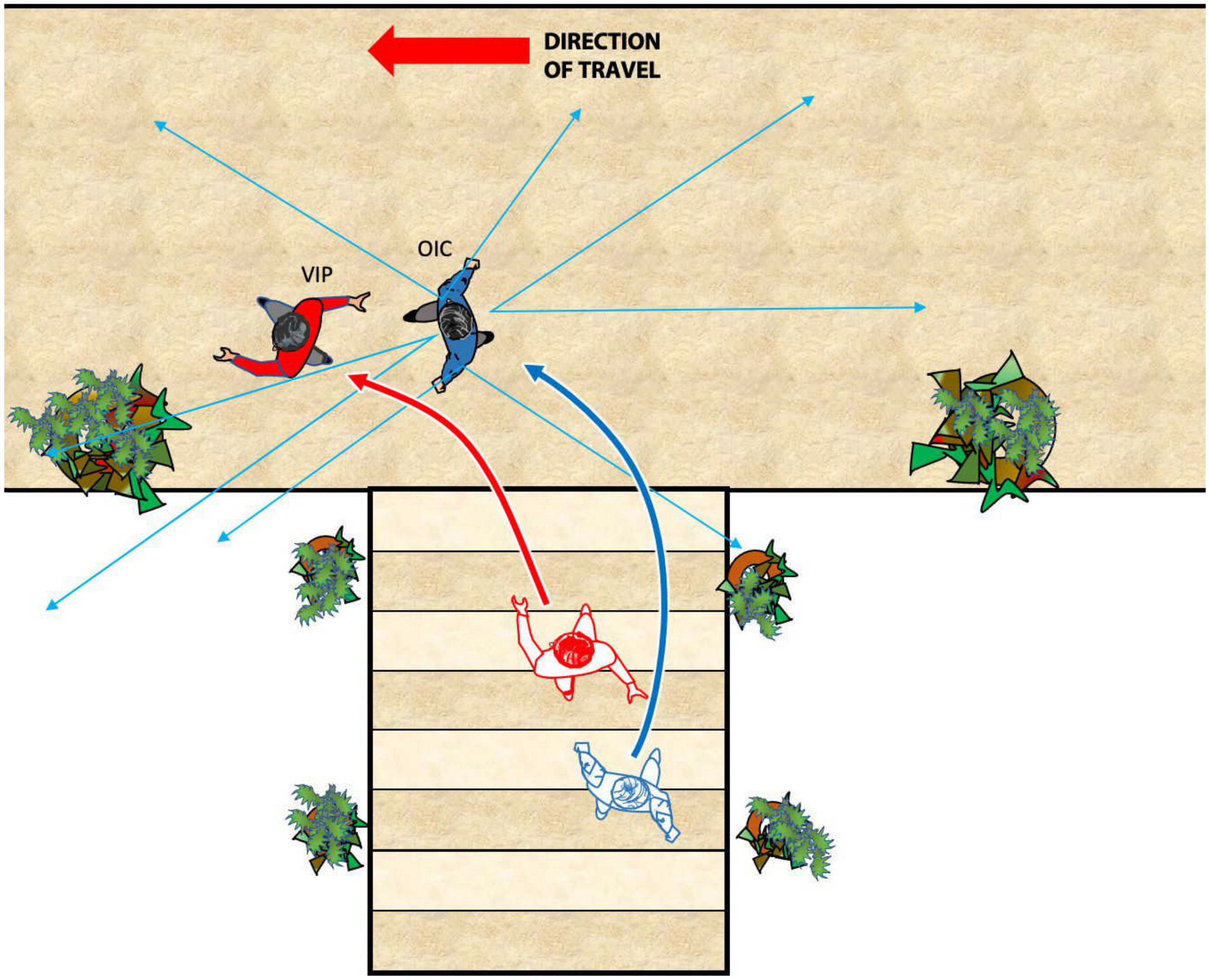
A singleton escort formation requires the OIC to provide 360-degree coverage at all times when going up or down the stairs. The OIC will therefore need to remain alert for signs of an attack in order to have as much time as possible to repel the attack.



STAIRCASES: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 2: Leave the Staircase and Turn the Corner

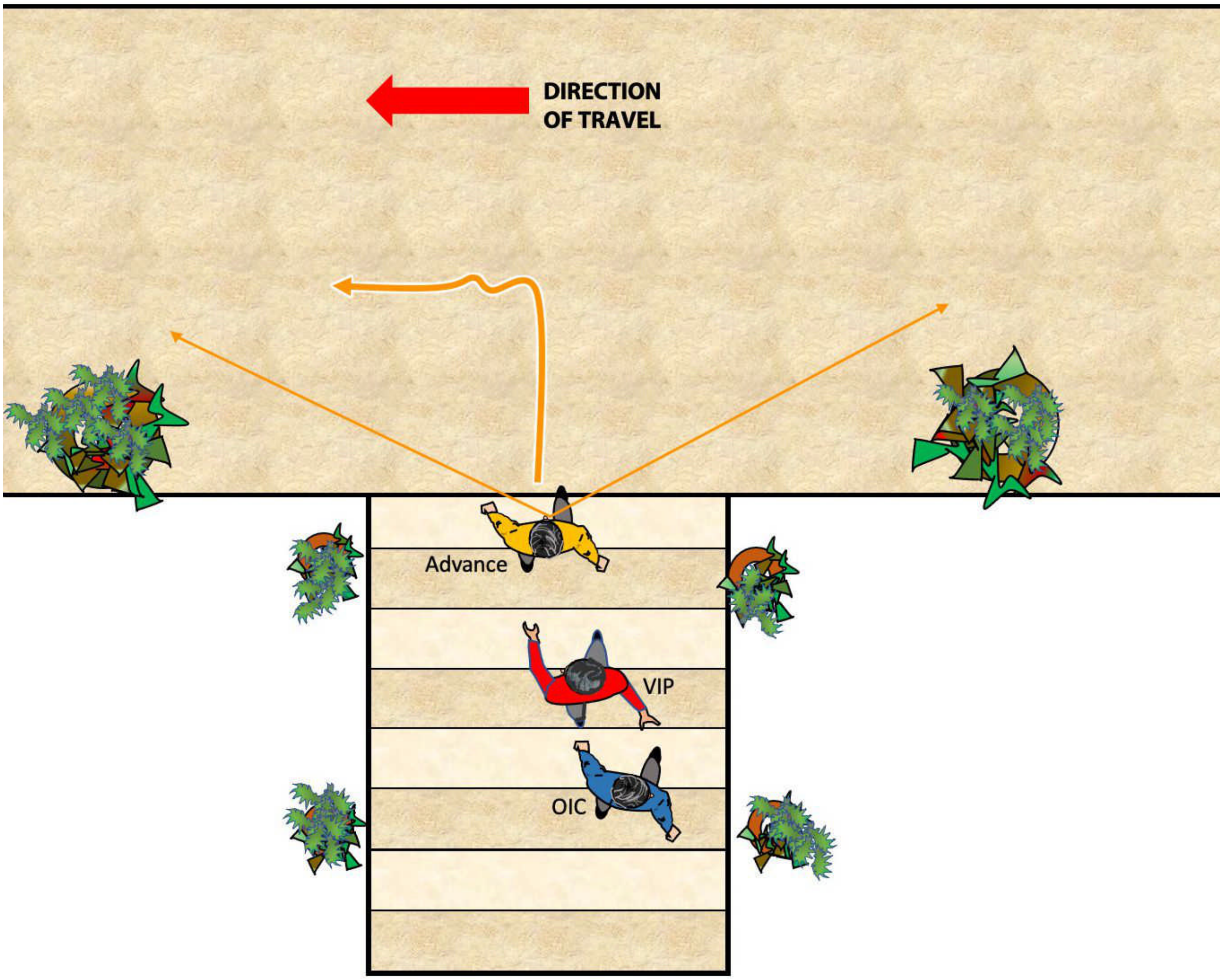
With only a singleton detail, there are not very many options available to the OIC besides remaining in formation, close to the VIP and staying alert. The OIC should adjust formation as needed to provide screening and body coverage from the directions that present the greatest threat.



STAIRCASES: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Remain Alert Climbing the Staircase

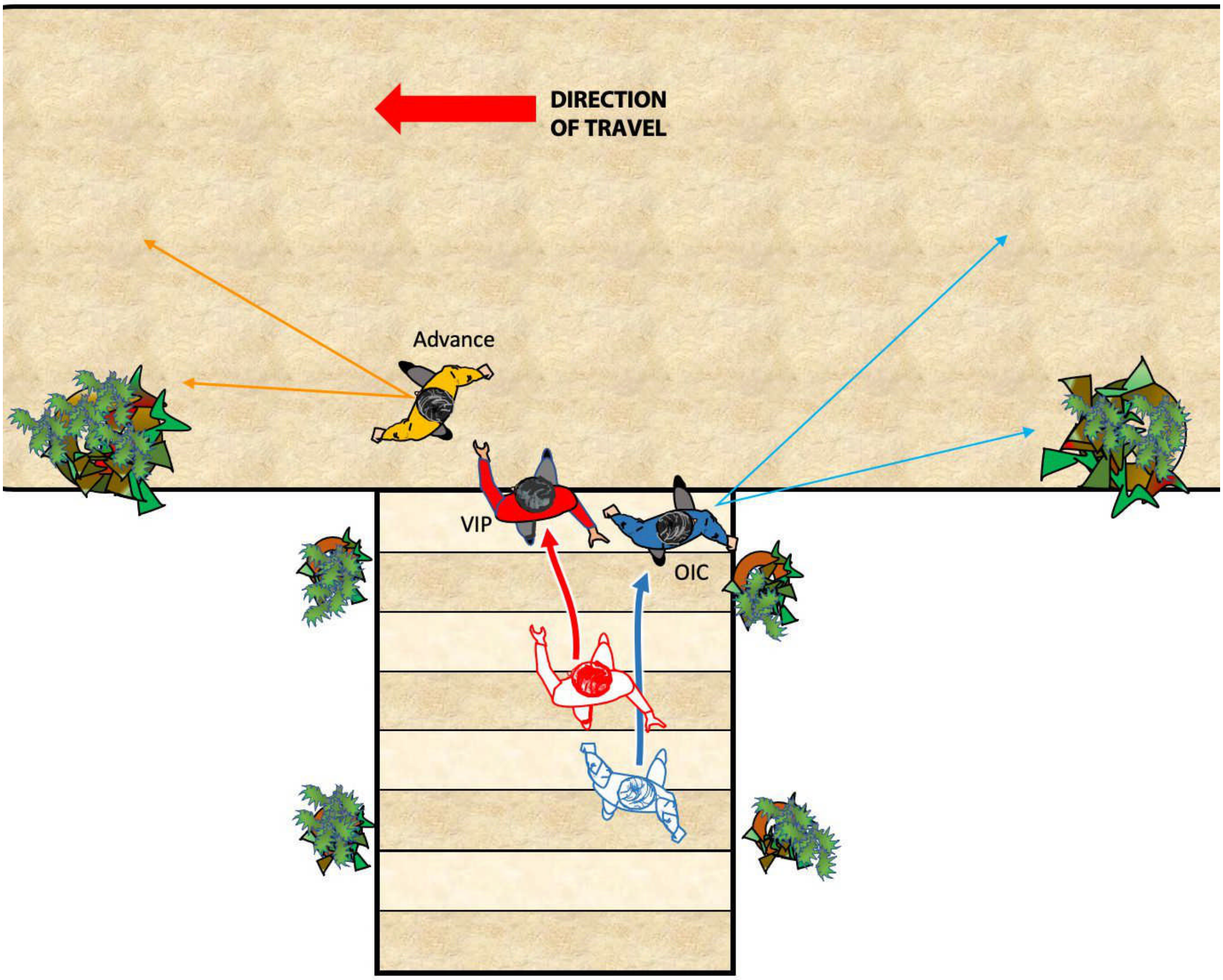
Similar to the singleton escort, the two-person escort will still need to be on constant alert for any attack that might come from any direction. In a two-person detail, the advance will generally cover to the front and sides while the OIC covers to the rear. However, the OIC should still remain aware of what lies ahead of the VIP. The OIC can adjust position to the left and right as needed to provide screening and body coverage from the directions that present the greatest threat.



STAIRCASES: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Clear the Landing of Foot Traffic

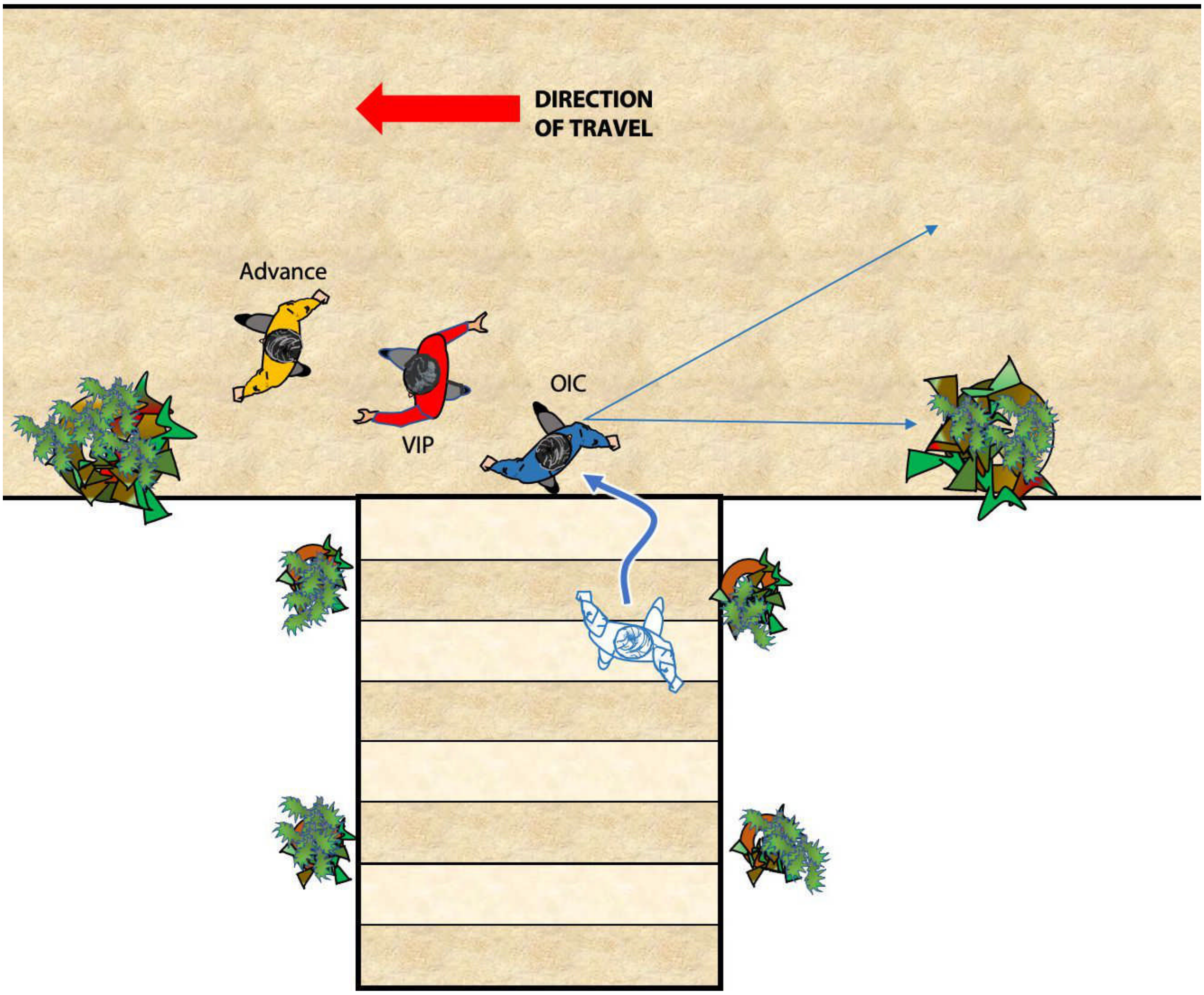
Upon reaching the top of the stairs, the Advance will visually clear in the direction of travel while the OIC clears in the opposite direction. Both detail members will identify and delay any foot traffic coming from their respective directions. They will use verbal communication and/or gestures to get the attention of the oncoming foot traffic and use physical contact to prevent an accidental collision if necessary. The Advance will maintain visual contact with the VIP and lead the VIP in the planned direction of travel.



STAIRCASES: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Move Down the Hall

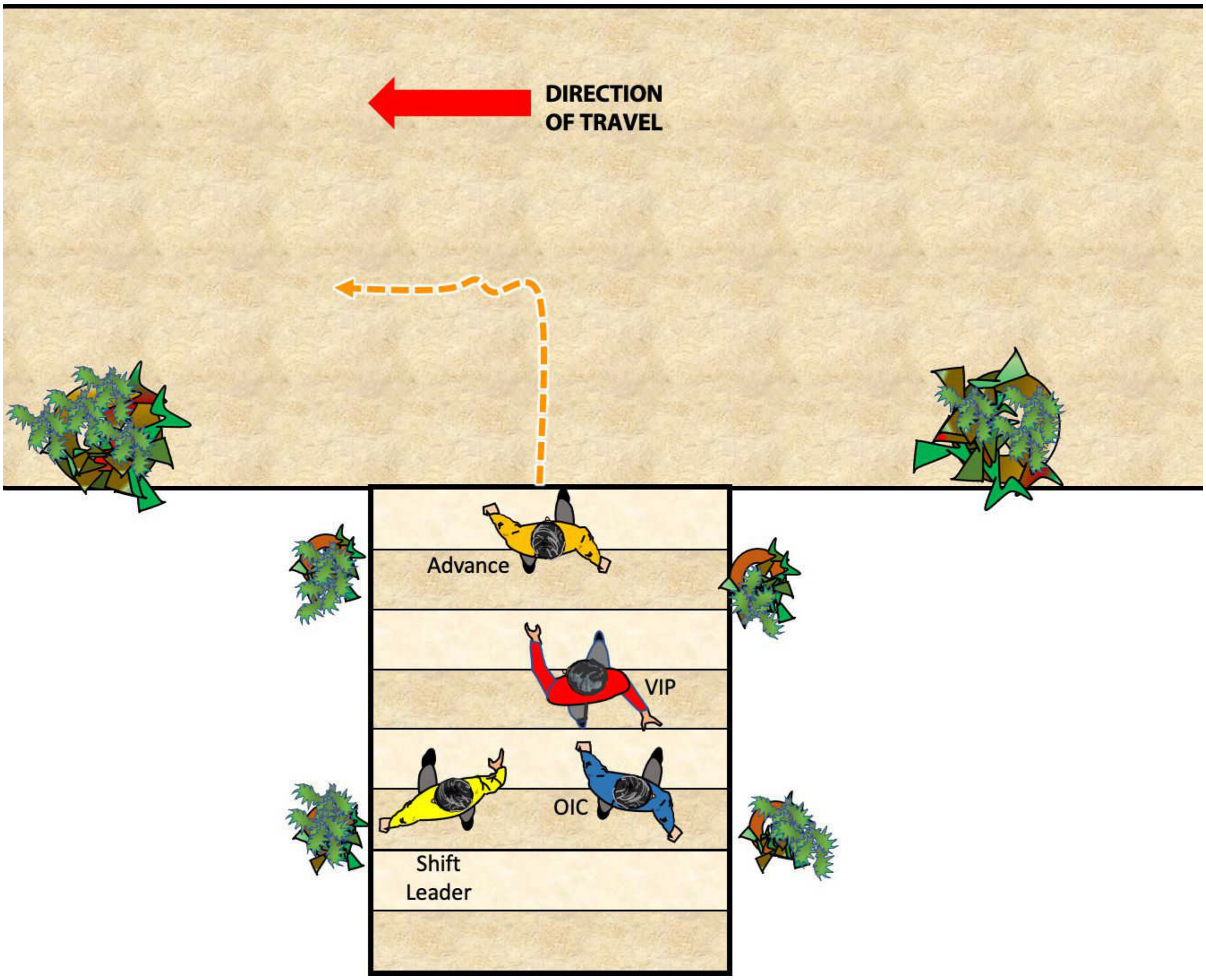
Once the formation reaches the top of the stairs the Advance will lead the VIP down the hall, checking for threats to the front. The OIC will give up coverage down the opposite hall and rejoin the formation, to the left or right of the VIP, shifting position as needed and remaining alert for potential threats coming from the rear.



STAIRCASES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Remain Alert Climbing the Staircase

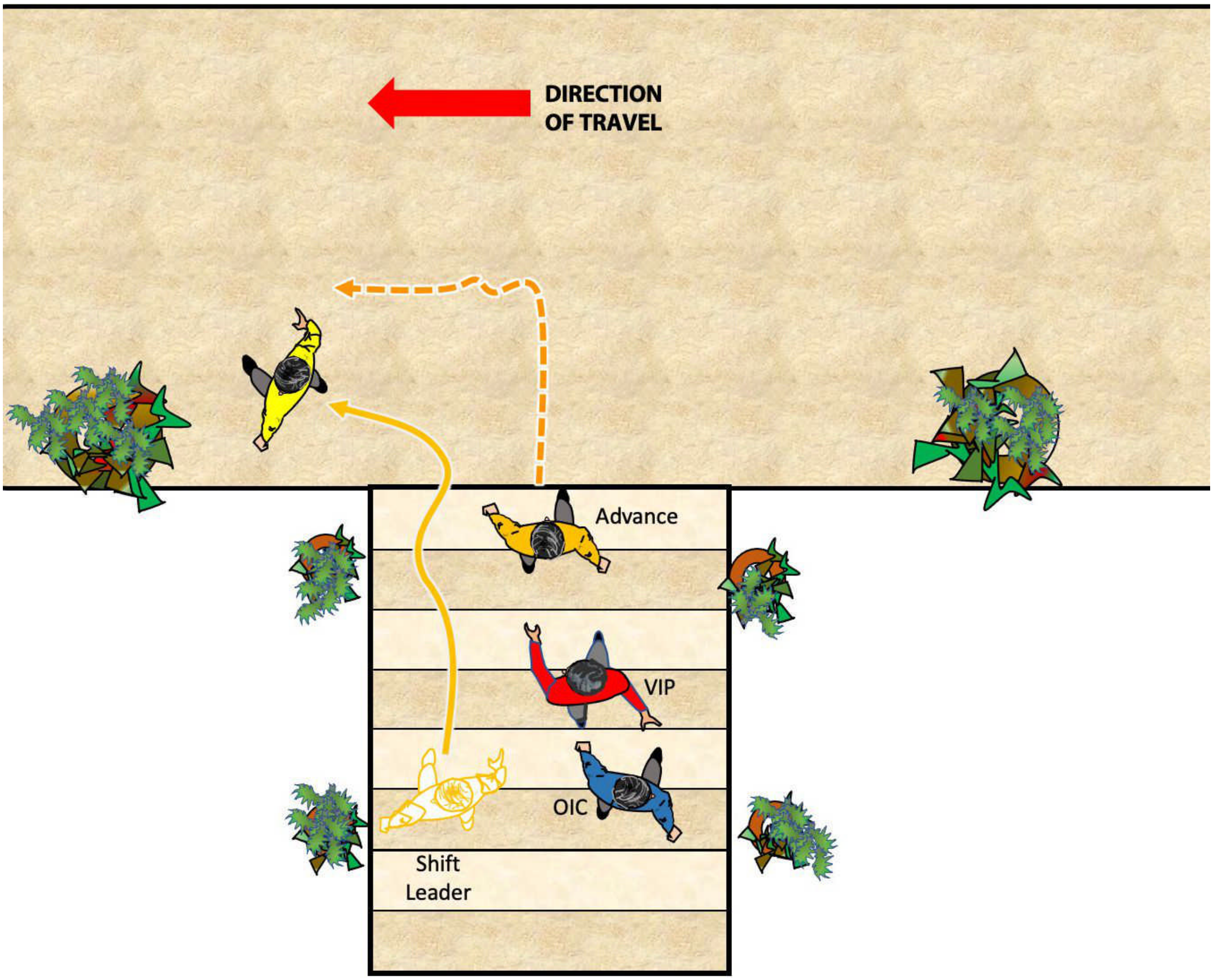
A three-person escort begins to lessen the burden on individual detail members to provide 360-degree security. The advance will focus on covering to the front and sides while the OIC remains close to the VIP and can adjust position to the left or right as needed. The SL can also move to either the right side or left side, based on the most likely direction of attack. In most cases, the SL will position on the same side as the direction of travel.



STAIRCASES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: SL Pushes Forward to Clear the Landing

The SL will move ahead of the formation to visually clear the landing as much as possible in the planned direction of travel before the detail reaches the top of the stairs. The SL will also remain alert for potential threats opposite the direction of travel. The SL will focus on clearing unknown areas and potential danger areas while also preparing to alert and stop foot traffic moving down the hall.

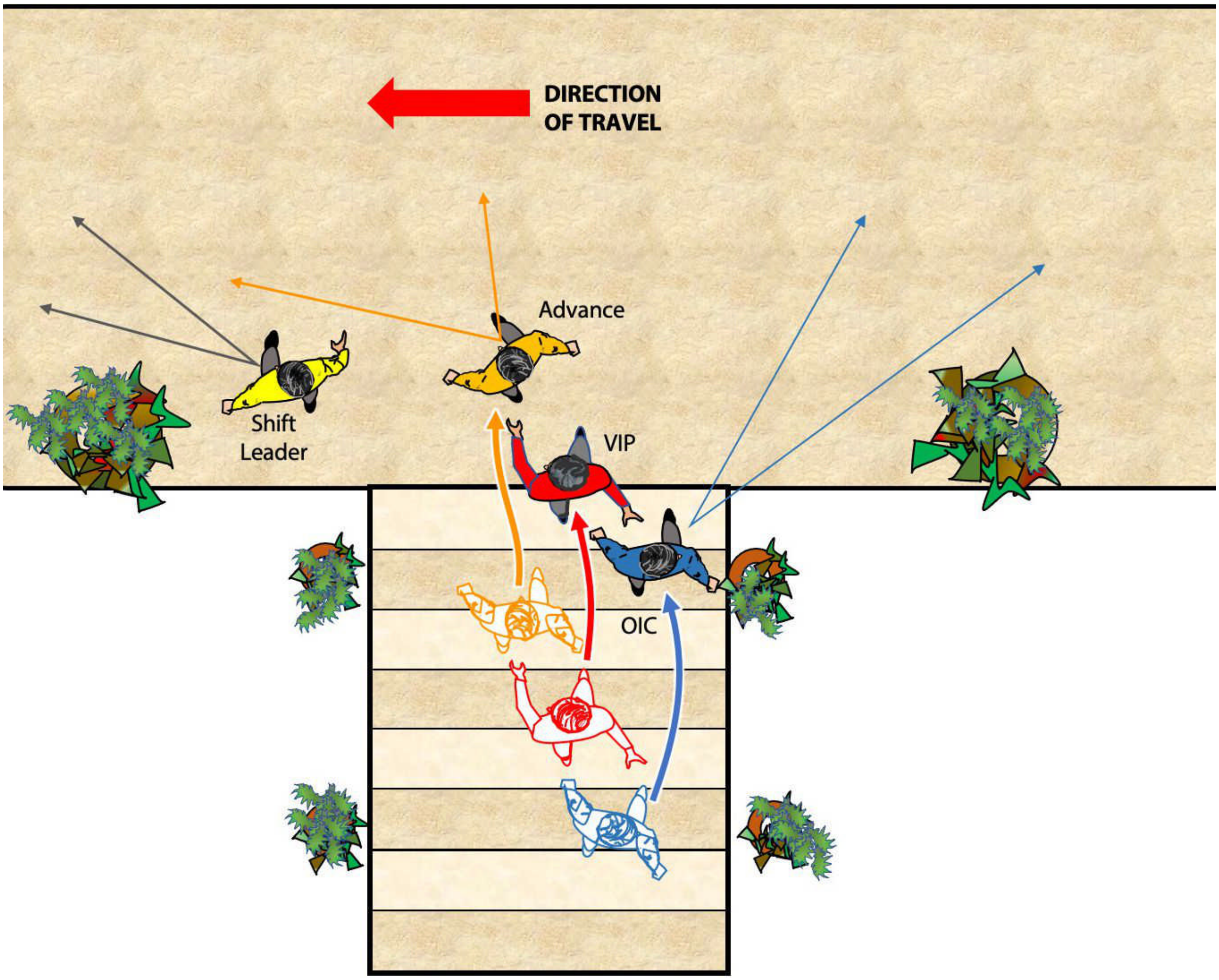


STAIRCASES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Clear the Landing of Foot Traffic

One the SL reaches the landing and conducts a visual search, the SL will hold position and continue to remain vigilant as the detail makes the turn and begins to move down the hall.

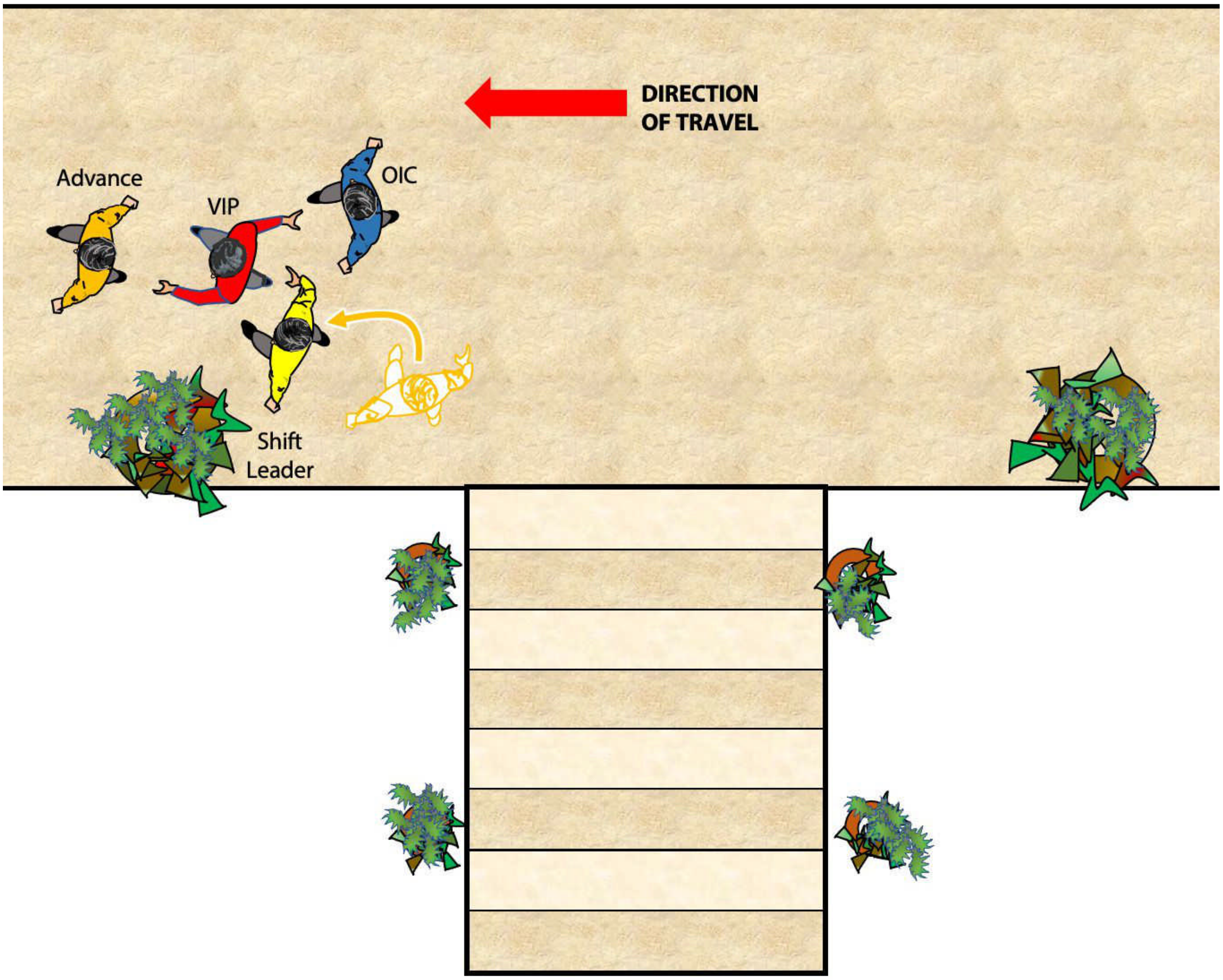
The Advance will lead the formation while the OIC pushes forward to provide additional coverage opposite the direction of travel. The Advance, SL and OIC will all ensure the landing is clear of foot traffic and that the VIPs path is unobstructed. Once the detail passes the SL, the SL will rejoin the formation and position to either the left or right depending on the threat and situation.



STAIRCASES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 4: Move Down the Hall

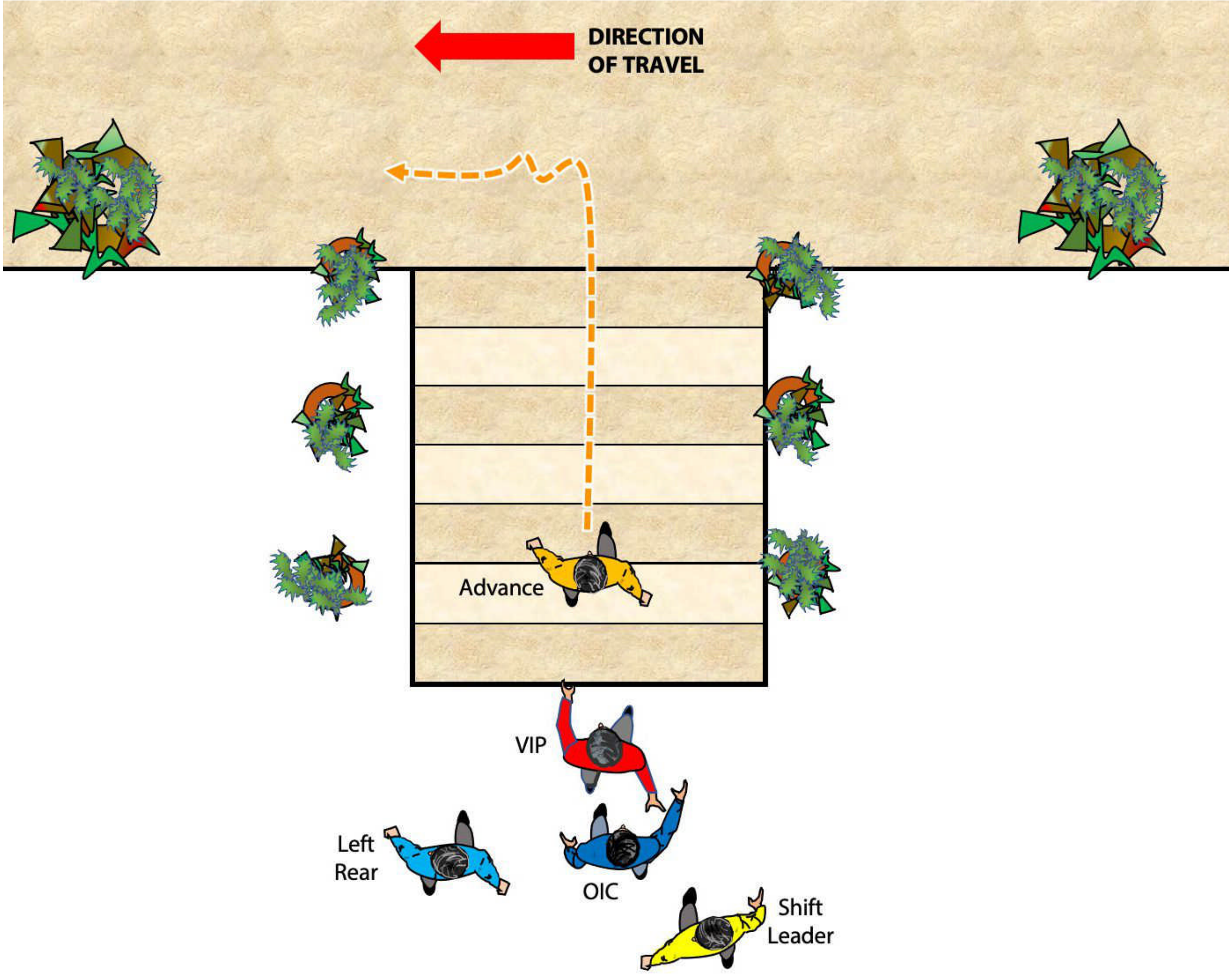
Once the detail passes the SL, the SL will rejoin the formation and position to either the left or right depending on the threat and situation. The OIC will give up coverage down the hall and remain close to the VIP, staying alert for potential threats coming from behind.


DIRECTION
OF TRAVEL
Advance
VIP
OIC
Shift
Leader

STAIRCASES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Remain Alert Climbing the Staircase

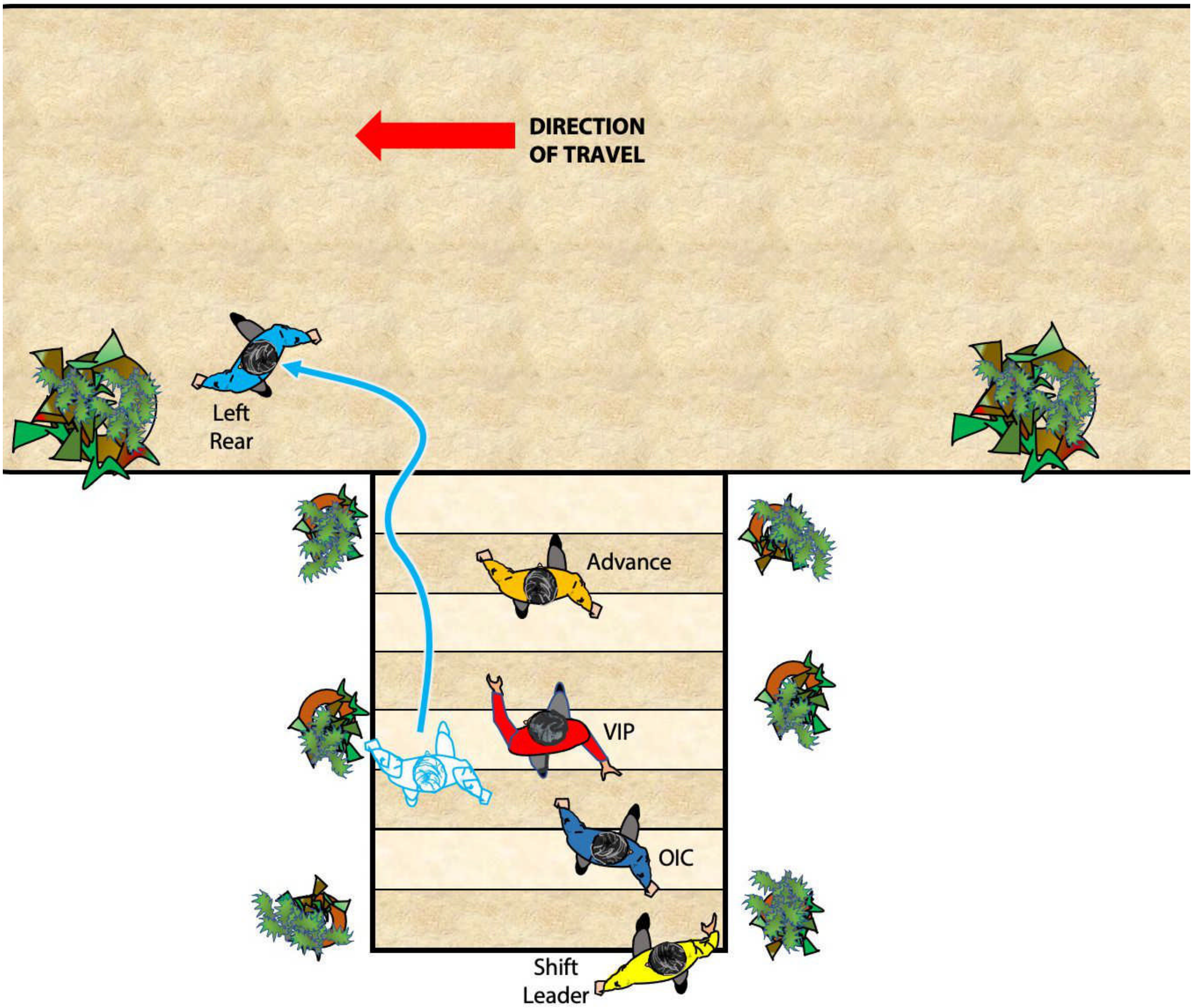
A four-person escort is much better equipped to effectively provide 360-degree security when moving through a danger area like a staircase. The advance will focus on covering to the front and sides while the OIC remains close to the VIP and can adjust position to the left or right as needed. The SL will position to cover one side and the LR/RR will cover the opposite side.


DIRECTION
OF TRAVEL
Advance
VIP
Left
Rear
OIC
Shift
Leader

STAIRCASES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: LR Pushes Forward to Clear the Landing

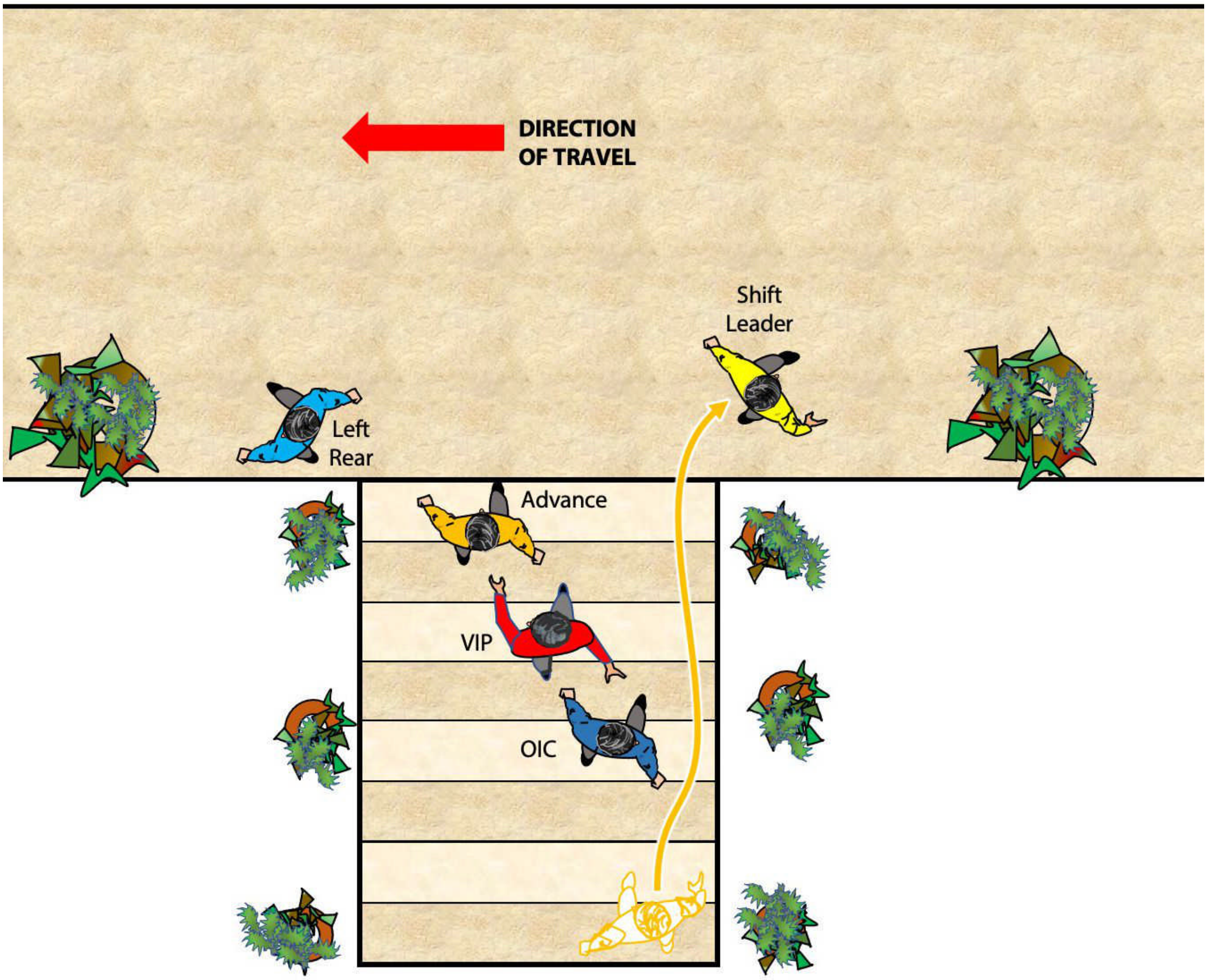
As the detail begins to climb the stairs, the SL will signal the LR to move ahead and clear the landing in the planned direction of travel. As the LR reaches the landing, he/she will conduct a visual scan for threats and foot traffic, assuming a fixed security position to best protect the approaching formation.


DIRECTION
OF TRAVEL
Left
Rear
Advance
VIP
OIC
Shift
Leader

STAIRCASES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: SL Pushes Forward to Clear the Landing

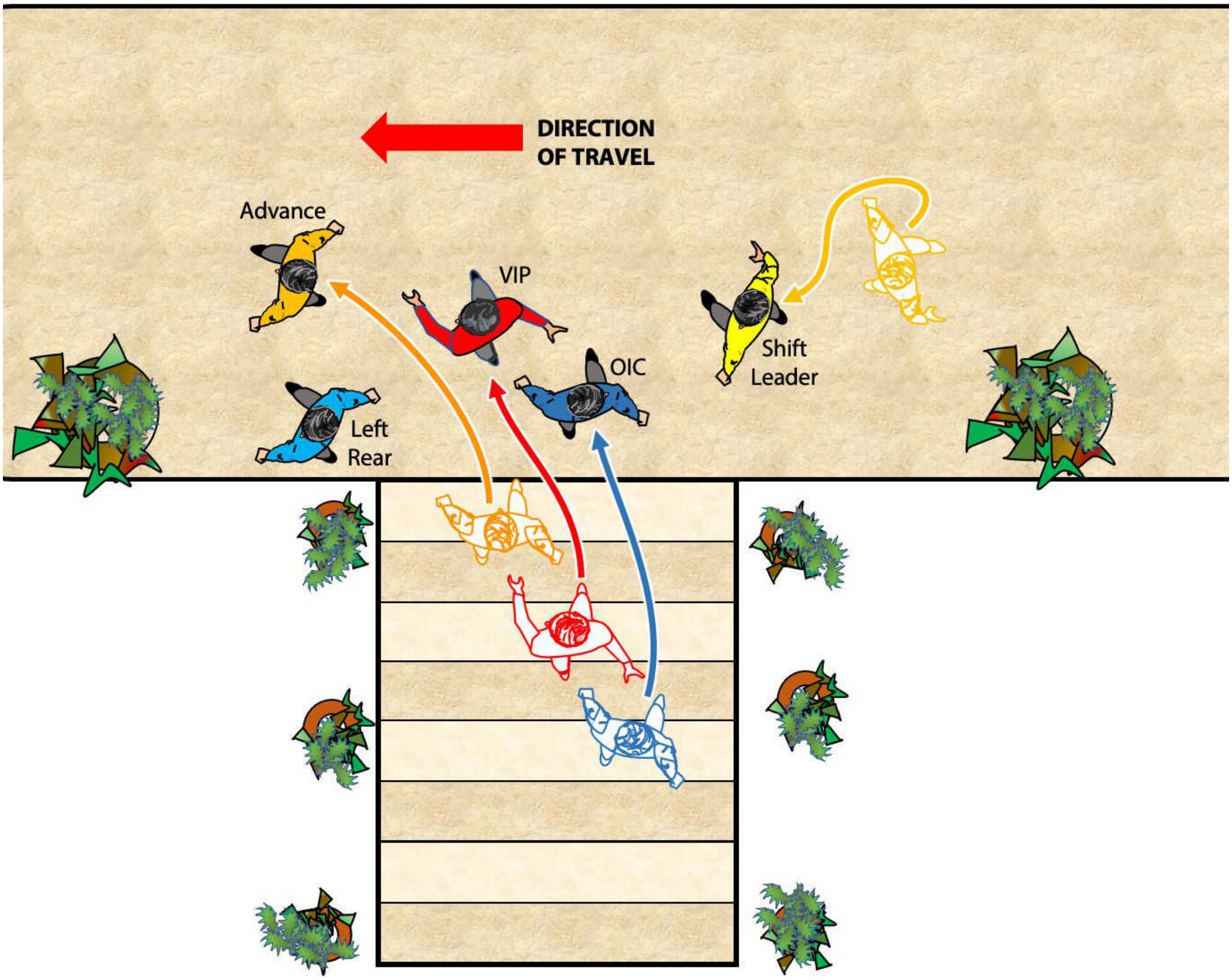
While it is most important to clear the landing in the direction of travel, the SL may also push forward to clear in the opposite direction, assuming a security post to cover the formation's rear as it makes the turn. The SL may want to move up at the same time as the LR or instead stay back with the detail for a while longer, providing security, then pushing forward just before the detail reaches the landing.


DIRECTION
OF TRAVEL
Shift
Leader
Left
Rear
Advance
VIP
OIC

STAIRCASES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 4: Clear the Landing and Move Down the Hall

Once the detail reaches the top of the stairs, all detail personnel will ensure that incoming foot traffic does not impede the VIP's movement. The Advance will lead the detail down the hall while the OIC remains close to the VIP, adjusting position to the left or right as needed. The SL and LR will give up their security posts to rejoin the formation as it passes, taking up security on the left and right sides.


DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
Advance
VIP
OIC
Shift Leader
Left Rear

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Elevators

This When the VIP is moving around inside of a building, it is very likely that he/she will need to use the elevator. Like the formal staircase, the elevator presents additional risks and challenges for the detail and will force the detail to change formation and take specific actions in order to ensure the VIP's safety. The elevator presents an increased risk because it is a confined space. If a threat manages to get into the elevator with the VIP, the detail will have limited room to isolate and neutralize the threat.

When coordinating with the venue, the Advance or OIC will determine if there is an elevator operator available and decide whether or not to use the elevator operator. In general, using a dedicated elevator operator is the preferred option since it allows the detail to focus on protecting the VIP, not on operating the elevator. However, the Advance and OIC will decide on the best option based on the situation.

If possible, the Advance should also check that all elevators are in working order and regularly maintained. This is particularly important in foreign countries that might not have the same safety regulations as the United States. The VIP will not want to get stuck in a broken elevator and miss important meetings.

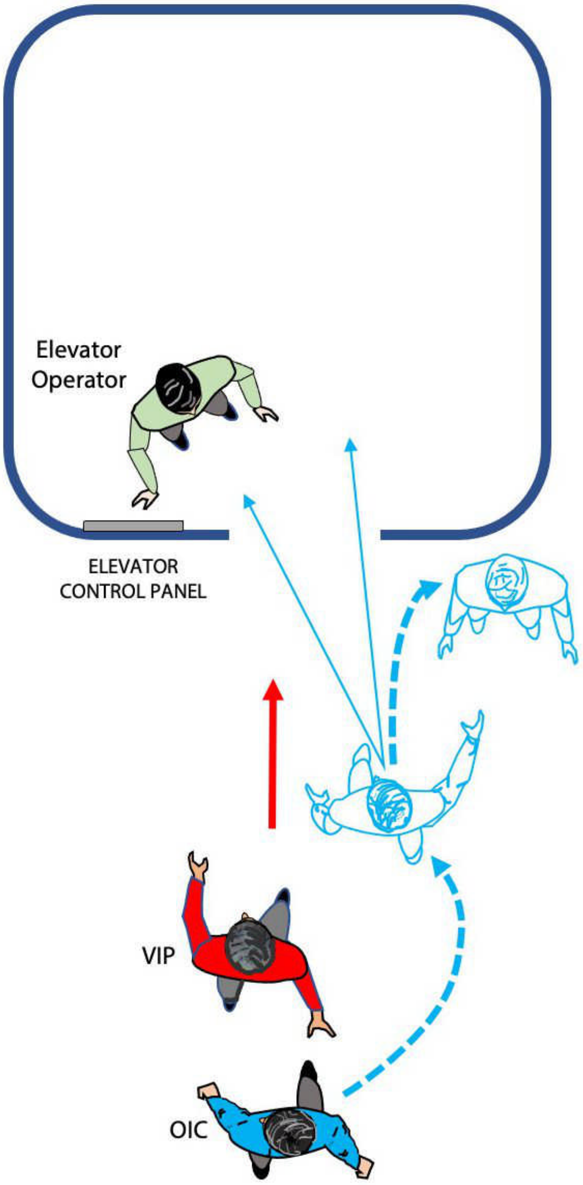
If the VIP should come under attack in the elevator, there are very few options available for the detail. In simple terms, some detail members must protect the VIP in the corner of the elevator while the remaining detail members neutralize the threat. Once the elevator door opens the VIP and OIC should exit as quickly as possible. For a singleton detail, the OIC may need to momentarily leave the VIP in the corner to address the threat.

Whatever the situation, a hostile encounter is particularly dangerous. For this reason, you will most likely make the decision to only allow detail members and the elevator operator into the elevator with the VIP. In cases where this is not possible, the detail will have to be extra vigilant in the elevator.

ELEVATORS: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 1: OIC Checks the Elevator and Posts Outside

The OIC will coordinate with the elevator operator (if available) ahead of time to plan for the VIP's movement to different floors. If there is no elevator operator available, the OIC will control the elevator. Prior to entering the elevator, the OIC will perform a quick visual check inside the elevator and then post to one side facing the rear as the VIP enters the elevator first. In this position, the OIC can prevent other people from entering the elevator if needed.

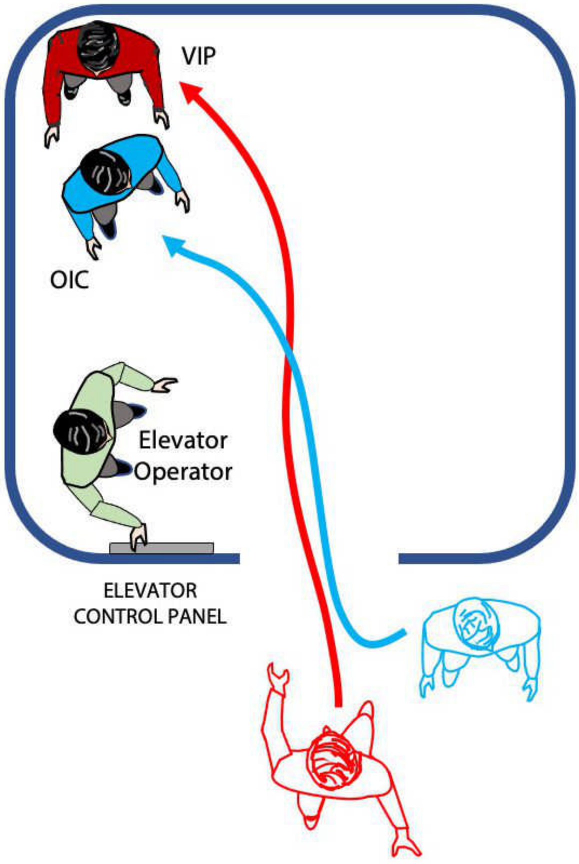


ELEVATORS: SINGLETON ESCORT

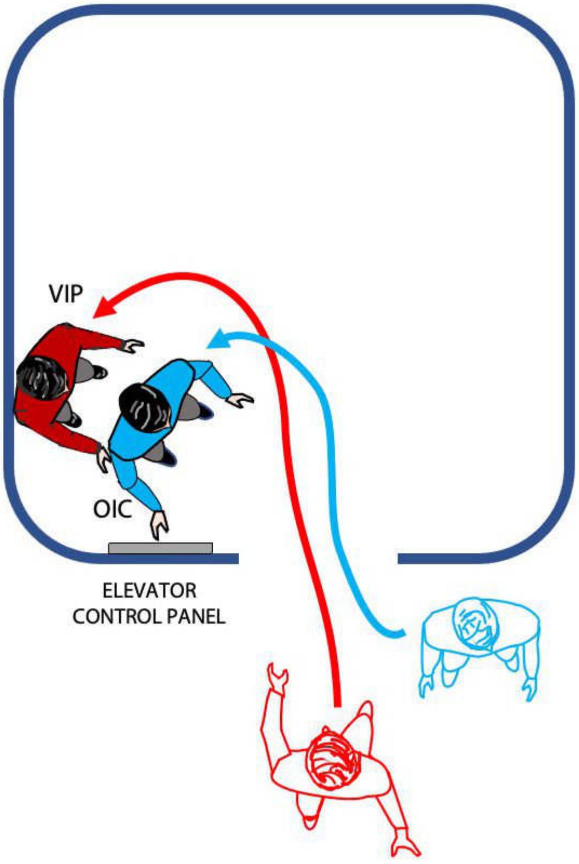
STEP 2: VIP and Detail Enter the Elevator

One the VIP enters the elevator, the OIC will follow, ensuring the VIP is positioned in the left/right rear corner of the elevator. The OIC will take a position in front of the VIP providing body coverage. If an elevator operator is not available, the OIC will control the elevator control panel and The VIP will take up a position right behind the OIC as shown in the diagram below. Either way, the OIC will ensure the right buttons are pushed to get the VIP quickly to the correct floor.

WITH ELEVATOR OPERATOR


VIP
OIC
Elevator
Operator
ELEVATOR
CONTROL PANEL

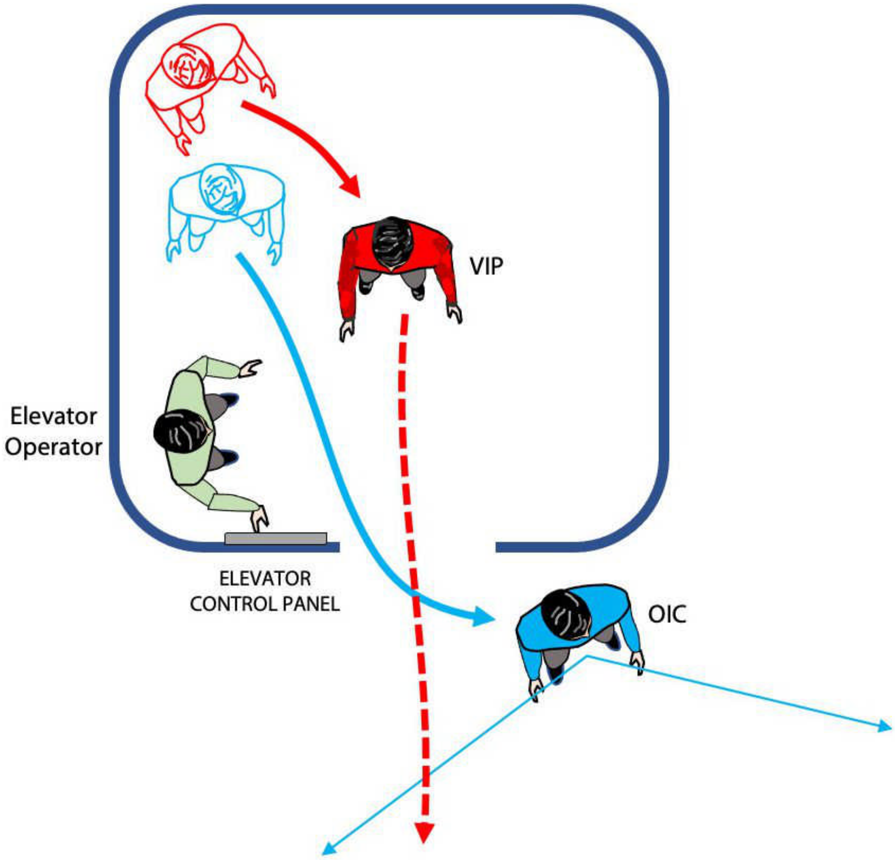
WITHOUT ELEVATOR OPERATOR


VIP
OIC
ELEVATOR
CONTROL PANEL

ELEVATORS: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 3: VIP and Detail Exit the Elevator

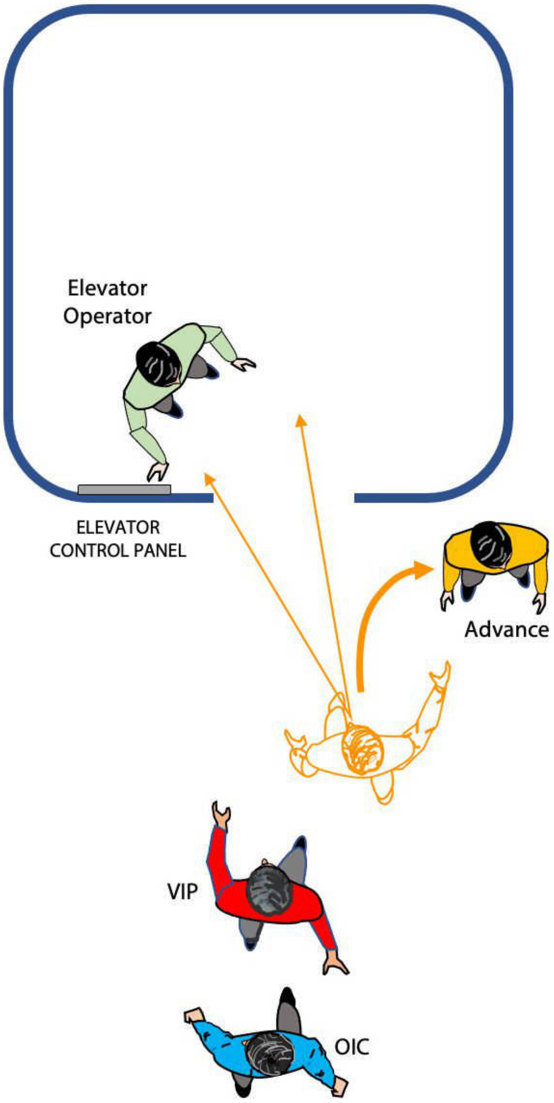
When the elevator reaches the desired floor and the door opens, the OIC will exit first and clear the front and flanks immediately. The OIC will simultaneously side-step to the left or right and allow the VIP to pass by. The VIP will exit the elevator and the OIC will fall into formation behind the VIP, providing 360-degree coverage.


VIP
Elevator Operator
ELEVATOR CONTROL PANEL
OIC

ELEVATORS: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Advance Checks the Elevator and Posts Outside

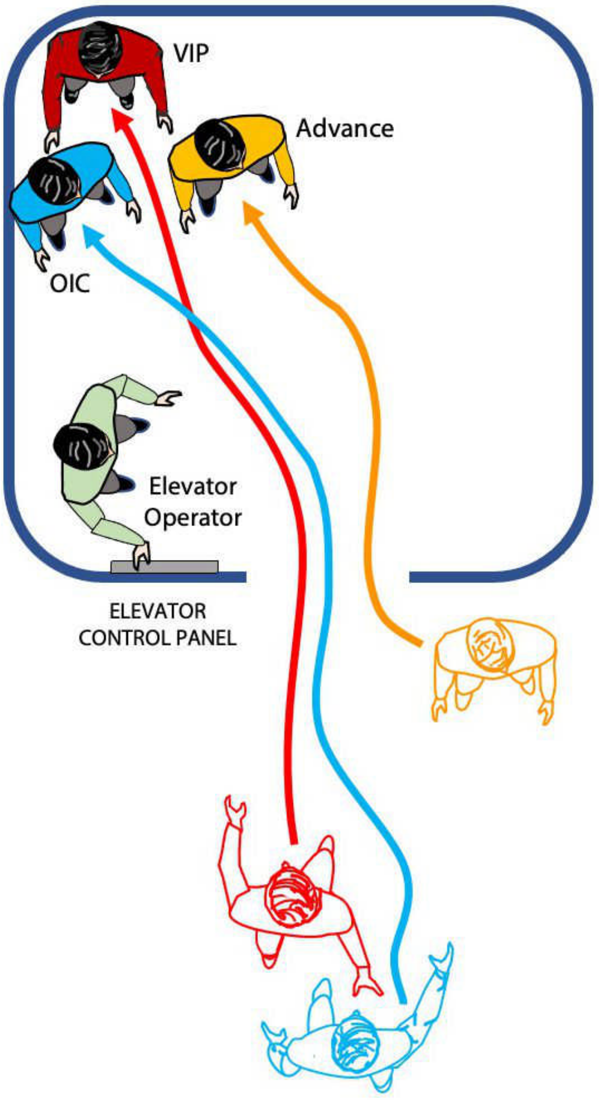
The Advance will coordinate with the elevator operator (if available) ahead of time to plan for the VIP's movement to different floors. If there is no elevator operator available, the Advance will take the elevator operator's position and control the elevator. Prior to entering the elevator, the Advance will perform a quick visual check inside the elevator and then post to one side facing the rear as the VIP enters first, followed by the OIC. The Advance will prevent other people from following the detail into the elevator if needed.



ELEVATORS: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: VIP and Detail Enter the Elevator

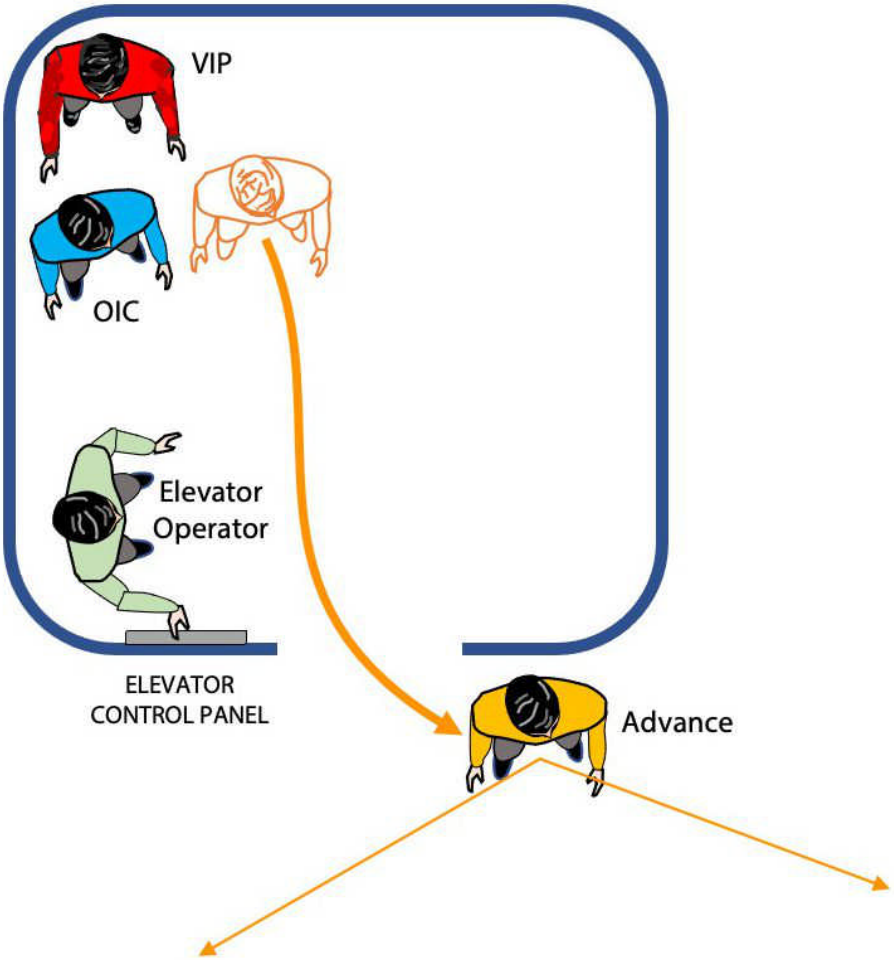
Once the VIP and OIC enter the elevator, the OIC will ensure the VIP is positioned in the left/right rear corner of the elevator. The Advance will follow behind the OIC and both detail members will take a position in front of the VIP providing body coverage. If an elevator operator is not available, the Advance will position next to the elevator control panel and control the elevator. Either way, the Advance will ensure the right buttons are pushed to get the VIP quickly to the correct floor.



ELEVATORS: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Advance Exits and Posts Outside the Elevator

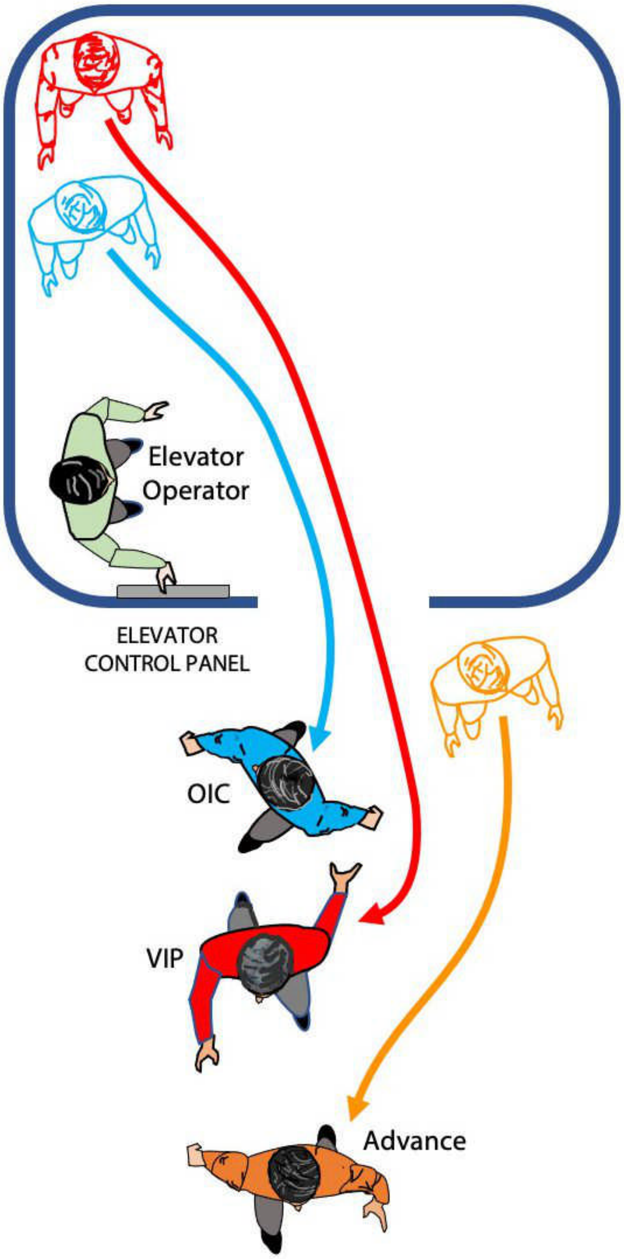
When the elevator reaches the desired floor and the door opens, the Advance will exit first and clear the front and flanks immediately. The Advance will simultaneously side-step to the left or right and allow the VIP and OIC to pass by.


VIP
OIC
Elevator Operator
ELEVATOR CONTROL PANEL
Advance

ELEVATORS: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 4: VIP and Detail Exit the Elevator

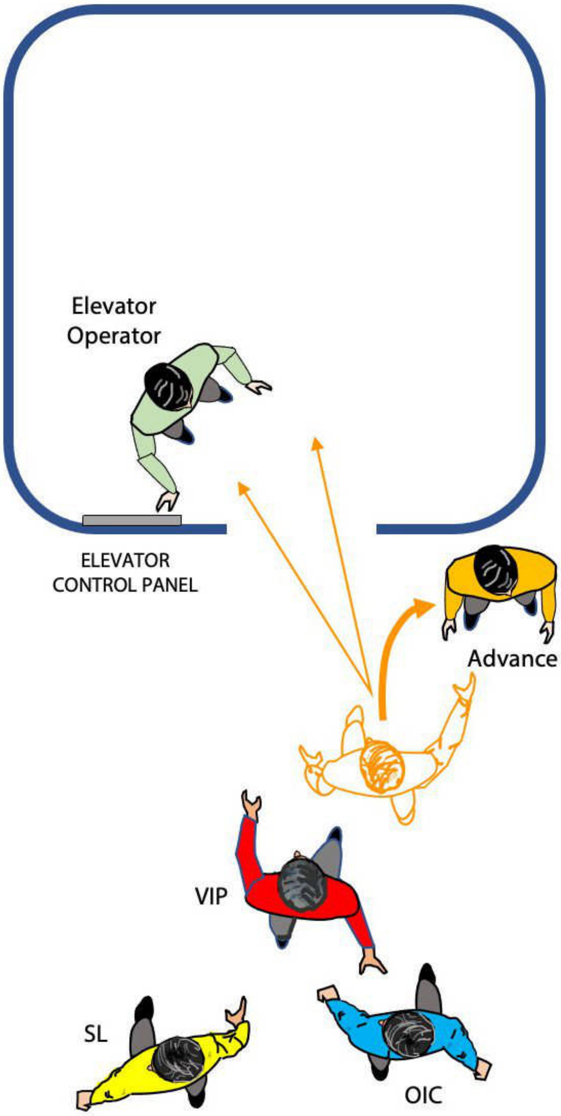
The VIP will exit the elevator and the OIC will fall into formation behind the VIP. The Advance will step into the lead and guide the VIP and OIC to the destination.


Elevator
Operator
ELEVATOR
CONTROL PANEL
OIC
VIP
Advance

ELEVATORS: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Advance Checks the Elevator and Posts Outside

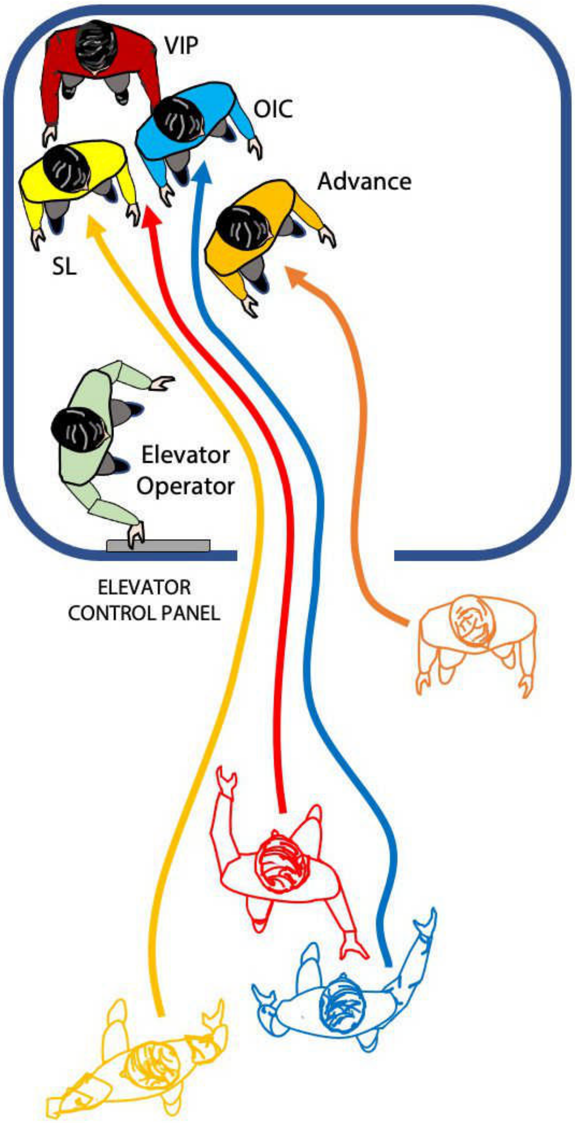
The Advance will coordinate with the elevator operator (if available) ahead of time to plan for the VIP's movement to different floors. If there is no elevator operator available, the Advance will take the elevator operator's position and control the elevator. Prior to entering the elevator, the Advance will perform a quick visual check inside the elevator and then post to one side facing the rear. The Advance will prevent other people from following the detail into the elevator if needed.



ELEVATORS: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: VIP and Detail Enter the Elevator

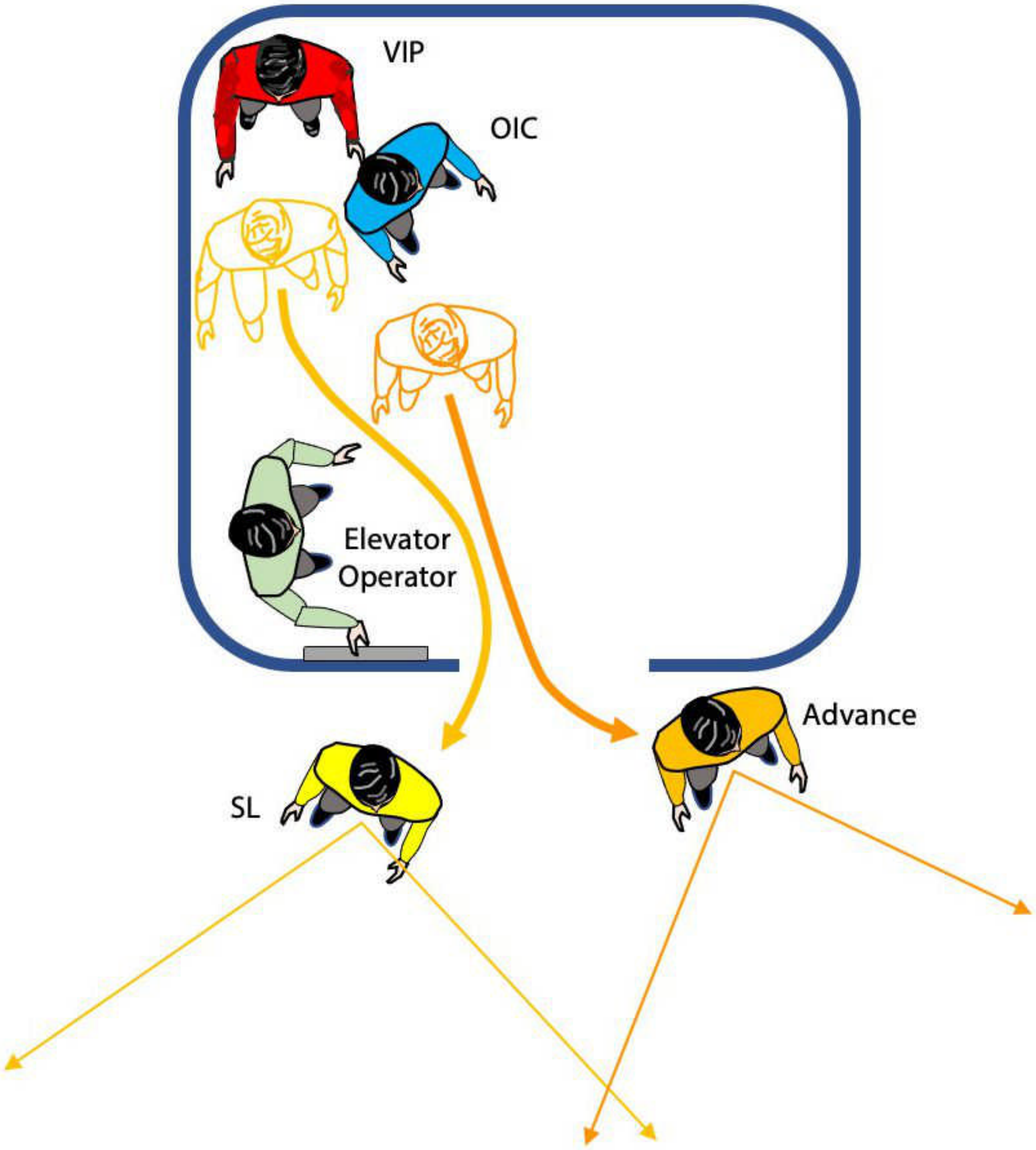
The SL should enter first if possible to perform an additional quick check of the elevator and clear a space for the detail. The VIP and OIC will follow and the OIC will ensure the VIP is positioned in the left/right rear corner of the elevator. Once the rest of the detail is in the elevator, the Advance will follow behind. All detail members will take a position in front of the VIP providing body coverage. If an elevator operator is not available, the Advance will position next to the elevator control panel and control the elevator. Either way, the Advance will ensure the right buttons are pushed to get the VIP quickly to the correct floor.



ELEVATORS: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Advance and SL Post Outside the Elevator

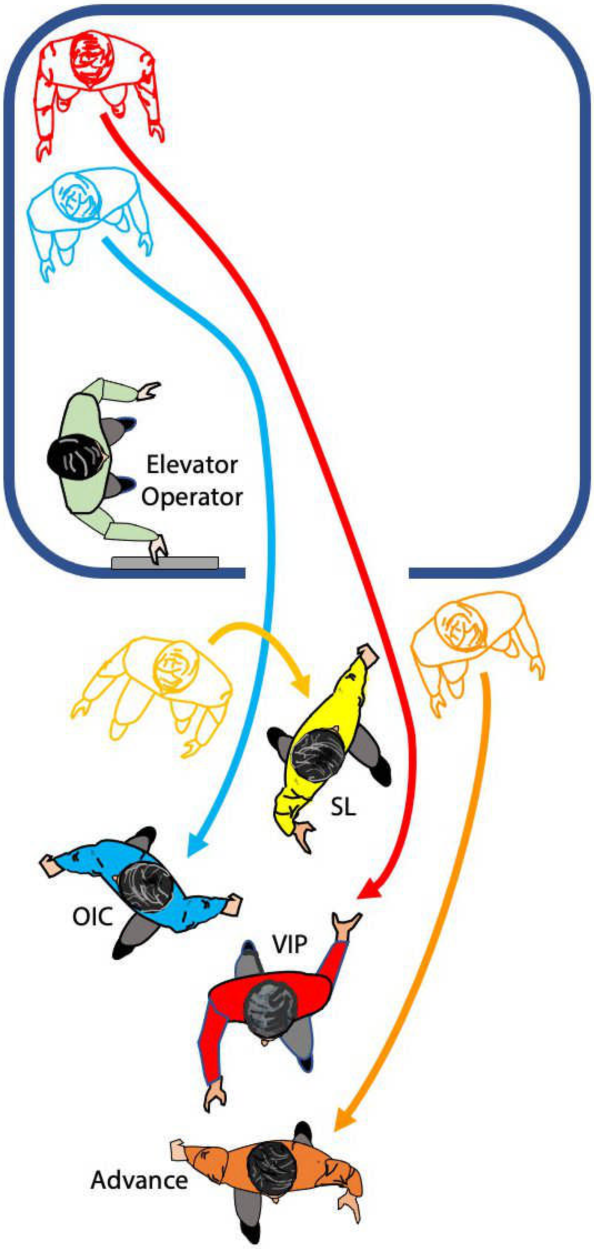
When the elevator reaches the desired floor and the door opens, the Advance and SL will exit first and clear the front and flanks immediately. The Advance and SL will simultaneously side-step outward to allow the VIP and OIC to pass by.


VIP
OIC
Elevator Operator
Advance
SL

ELEVATORS: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 4: VIP and Detail Exit the Elevator

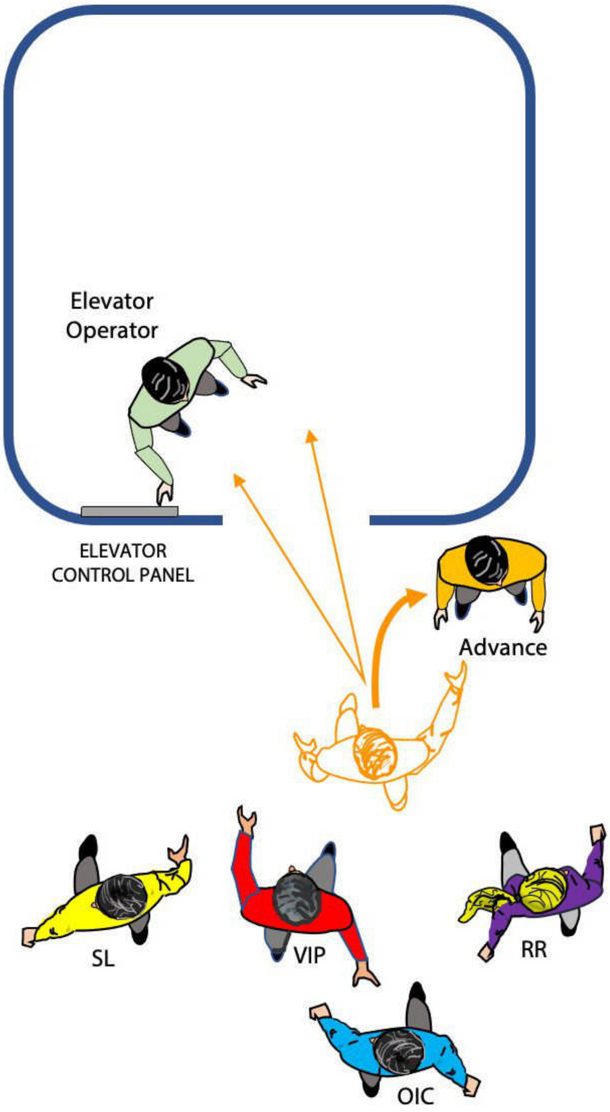
The OIC and VIP will exit the elevator last. After exiting the OIC will sidestep to the left or right to allow the VIP to pass and follow the Advance. The Advance will ensure the VIP is following and proceed to lead the VIP to the destination. The SL will fall into formation and provide added coverage to the left or right as needed.



ELEVATORS: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Advance Checks the Elevator and Posts Outside

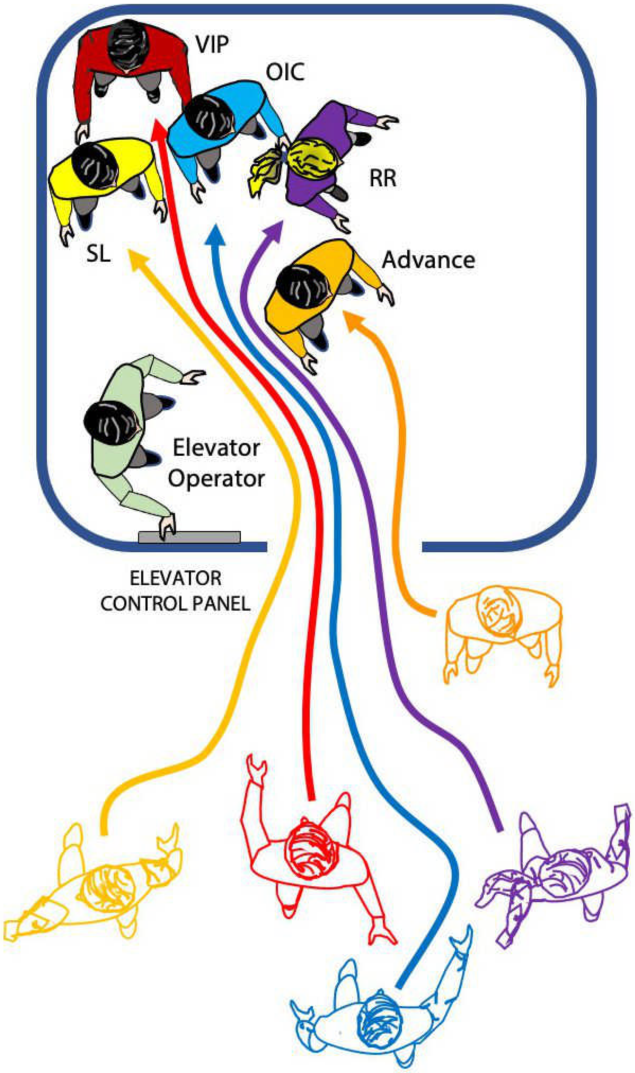
The Advance will coordinate with the elevator operator (if available) ahead of time to plan for the VIP's movement to different floors. If there is no elevator operator available, the Advance will take the elevator operator's position and control the elevator. Prior to entering the elevator, the Advance will perform a quick visual check inside the elevator and then post to one side facing the rear. The Advance will prevent other people from following the detail into the elevator if needed.


Elevator Operator
ELEVATOR CONTROL PANEL
Advance
SL
VIP
RR
OIC

ELEVATORS: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: VIP and Detail Enter the Elevator

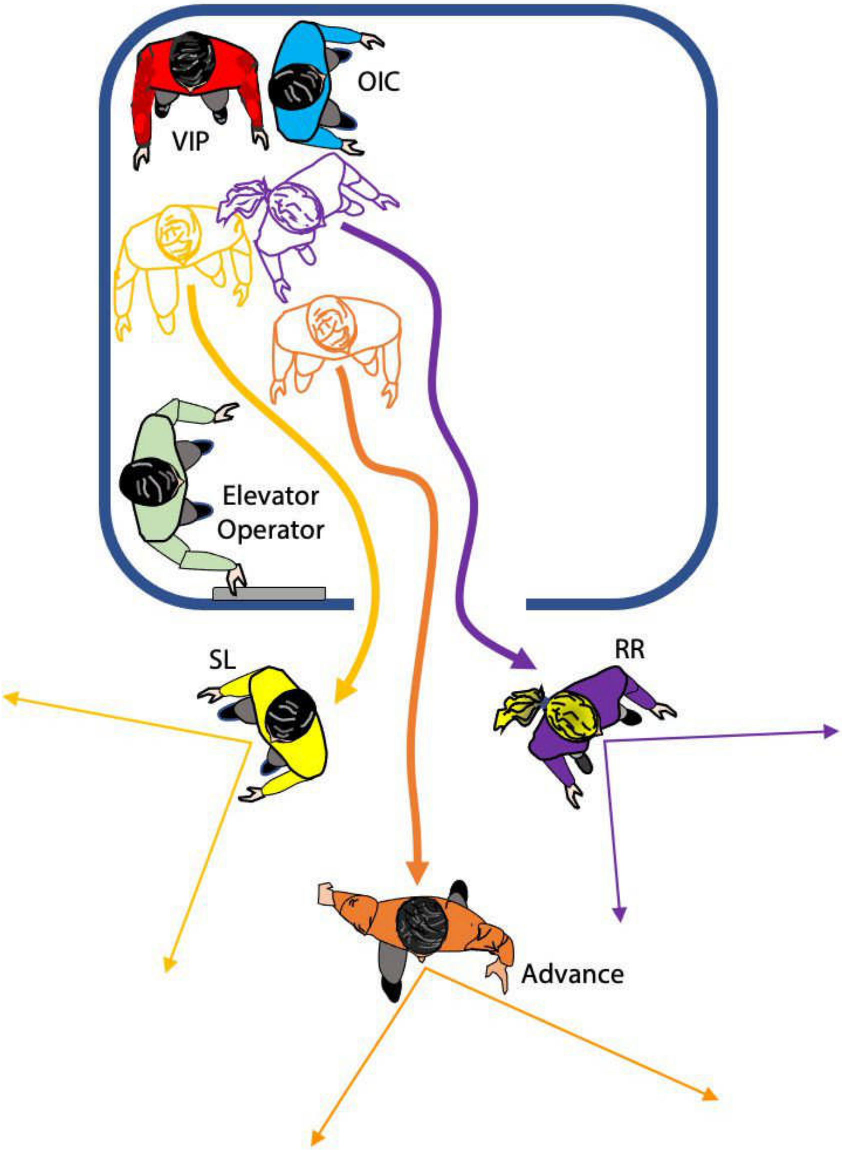
The Right Rear (RR) should enter first if possible to perform an additional quick check of the elevator and clear a space for the detail. The rest of the detail will follow and the OIC will ensure the VIP is positioned in the left/right rear corner of the elevator. The Advance will enter last. All detail members will take a position in front of the VIP providing body coverage. If an elevator operator is not available, the Advance will position next to the elevator control panel and control the elevator. Either way, the Advance will ensure the right buttons are pushed to get the VIP quickly to the correct floor.



ELEVATORS: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Advance, SL and RR Post Outside the Elevator

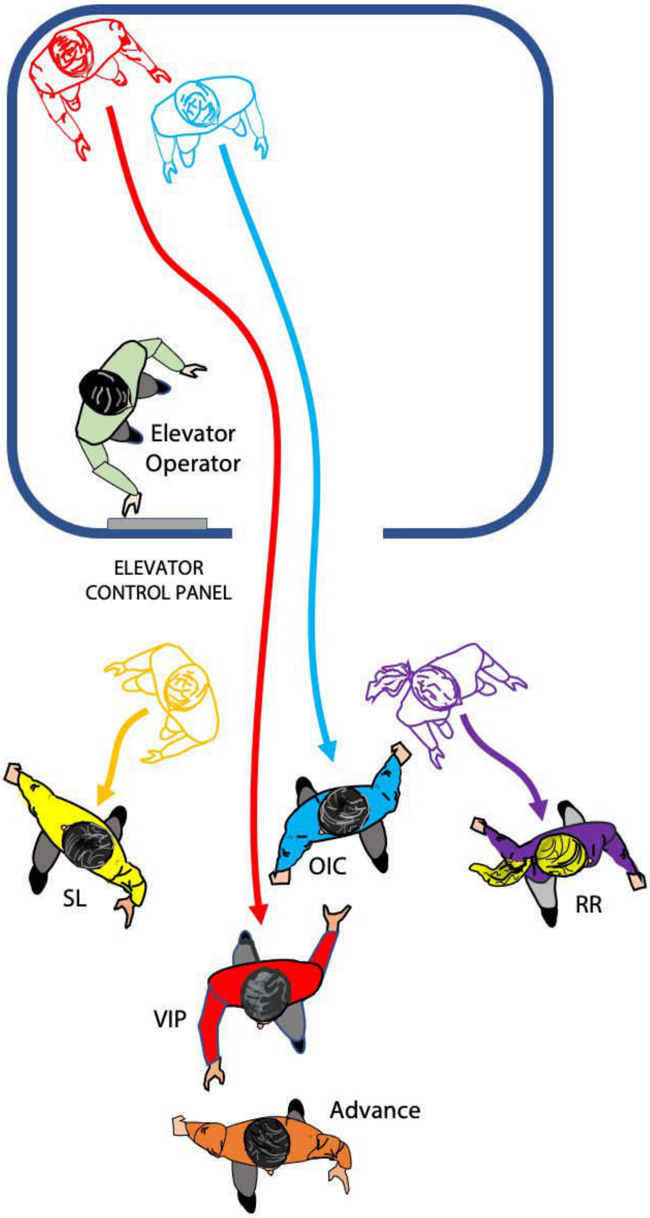
When the elevator reaches the desired floor and the door opens, the Advance, SL and RR will exit first and clear the front and flanks immediately. The Advance and SL will simultaneously side-step outward to allow the VIP and OIC to pass by.


OIC
VIP
Elevator
Operator
SL
RR
Advance

ELEVATORS: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 4: VIP and Detail Exit the Elevator

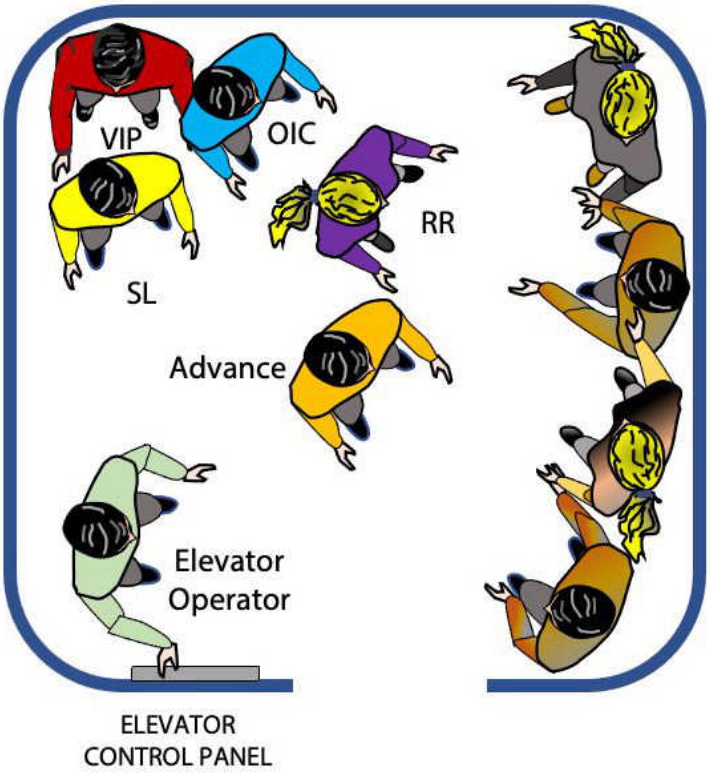
The OIC and VIP will exit the elevator last. After exiting the OIC will sidestep to the left or right to allow the VIP to pass and follow the Advance. The Advance will ensure the VIP is following and proceed to lead the VIP to the destination. The SL and RR will fall into formation and provide added coverage to the left and right.


Elevator
Operator
ELEVATOR
CONTROL PANEL
SL
OIC
RR
VIP
Advance

ELEVATORS: OTHER PASSENGERS IN THE ELEVATOR

Contain Other Passengers on One Side of the Elevator

As stated before, for safety reasons it is generally best to prevent other passengers from entering the elevator with the VIP. However, in some cases you might choose to allow other people into the elevator or you might have no choice. If this is the case you should politely try to keep these additional passengers to one side and watch them carefully. The diagram below depicts this with a four-person detail but the general principle is the same regardless of the detail size.


VIP
OIC
RR
SL
Advance
Elevator Operator
ELEVATOR CONTROL PANEL

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Protection Close Quarters Battle (CQB)

If the detail comes under attack inside of a building or near a building, the detail members will have to use Close Quarters Battle (CQB) tactics, also known as Room Clearing Tactics (RCT) to quickly get the VIP to safety. In these situations, you will generally want to either move the VIP back to the motorcade so you can drive away, or move to a safe haven where you can establish a hasty defensive position and call for backup. Ideally, the Advance will already have coordinated with the venue and conducted a site survey to identify good potential safe havens and routes to get to those safe havens. However, if the Advance was not able to do this ahead of time, the detail will have to remain alert and adapt to the situation.

Like empty-hand fighting, CQB tactics are an extensive subject that requires a great deal of training. Special Tactics has already published books on single-person (singleton), two-person, law-enforcement and military CQB. Following this book, Special Tactics plans to publish a book specifically covering protection-related CQB. This additional book is needed because the tactics have to adapt when you are moving and fighting with a VIP as part of your formation.

While in-depth coverage of protection CQB will require a complete second volume, this section provides a starting point for understanding the essentials of protection CQB and how they relate to the bigger picture of venue security. The section begins by covering basic clearing techniques for situations where the primary threats are either to the front or rear. The section then goes on to discuss how you can use CQB tactics to move from room-to-room in order to clear a route for the VIP to get to safety. Once again, the final destination might either be the motorcade, a predetermined safe haven or an improvised safe haven.

The tactics in this section mostly focus on a two-person clearing element. If you are operating with a 3-4 person detail, the need for drivers to remain with the motorcade will make a two-person walking detail the most likely size you will end up using. However, the same general tactical principles discussed in this section can apply to singleton clearing elements or 3-4 person clearing elements. Combining this section with tactics from Special Tactics' other CQB manuals will offer a good base of options to choose from.

Vehicle Evacuation, CQB and Safe Havens

As mentioned earlier, this book on venue security is especially designed to compliment our other book entitled *Escort Detail Mobile VIP Protection*. The mobile security book focuses on protecting the VIP when moving from place to place in a vehicle or motorcade. The mobile security book discusses tactics and techniques for evacuating from a motorcade where all the vehicles have been immobilized. The mobile security book discusses how to safely evacuate the vehicles and move away towards safety. However the instruction ends there.

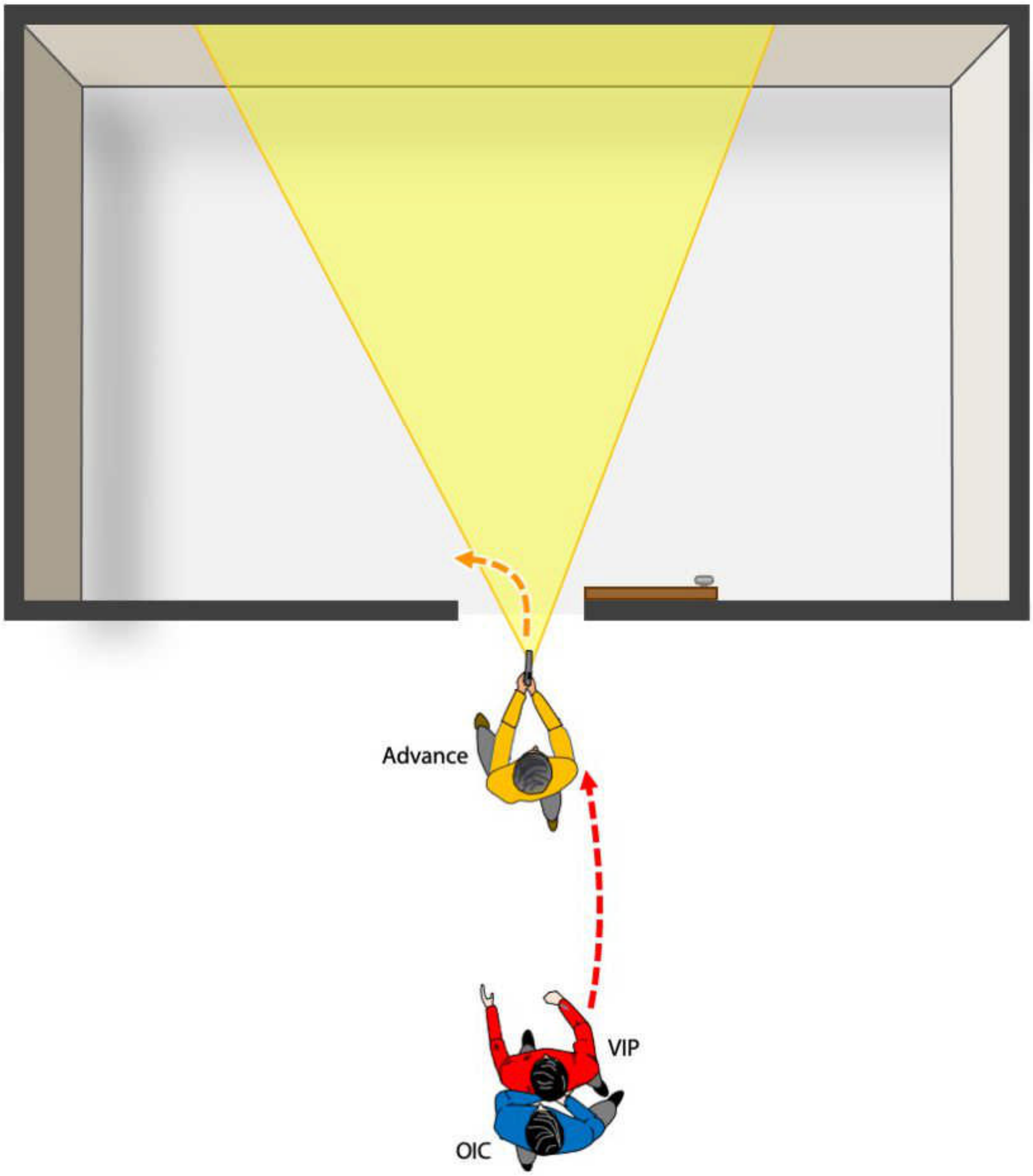
This book provides the answer for what to do once the detail is dismounted and looking for a safe haven in which to take refuge. Therefore, while one application of the tactics in the following section might be evacuating the VIP to safety after an attack on foot at the venue, you can also use these same tactics after evacuating a motorcade following an ambush. However, one key factor that chances in this second scenario is that there is likely a much greater degree of uncertainty following a vehicle evacuation.

When conducting an evacuation at the venue, you will likely have had time to survey the area and pre-plan evacuation routes and safe havens. Since a motorcade can be attacked at any point along its route, you may be completely unfamiliar with the area you find yourself in after evacuating your vehicle. This situation will require additional vigilance and sound tactics in order to ensure the VIP's safety.

PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 1: Advance Leads Formation

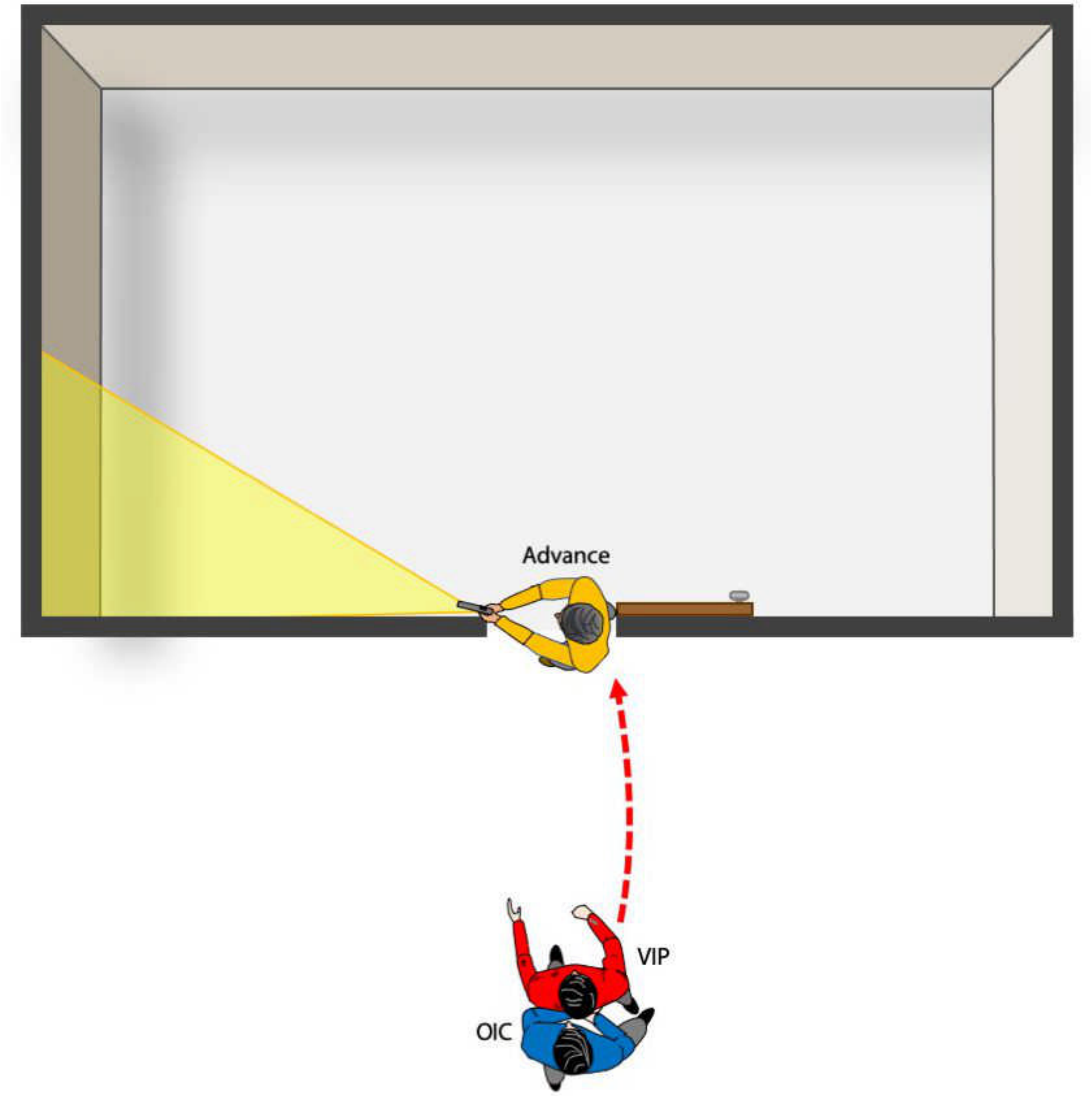
In this situation, the detail is threatened and needs to get the VIP to a temporary safe location. If the most likely threat is to the front, the Advance may lead the detail, scouting ahead and checking to make sure the room/building is safe before the VIP enters. In some situations, the Advance may want to scout farther ahead by moving as fast as possible. However, it is still important that the detail members remain close enough together to be mutually supporting.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 2: Advance Checks Corner Opposite the Door

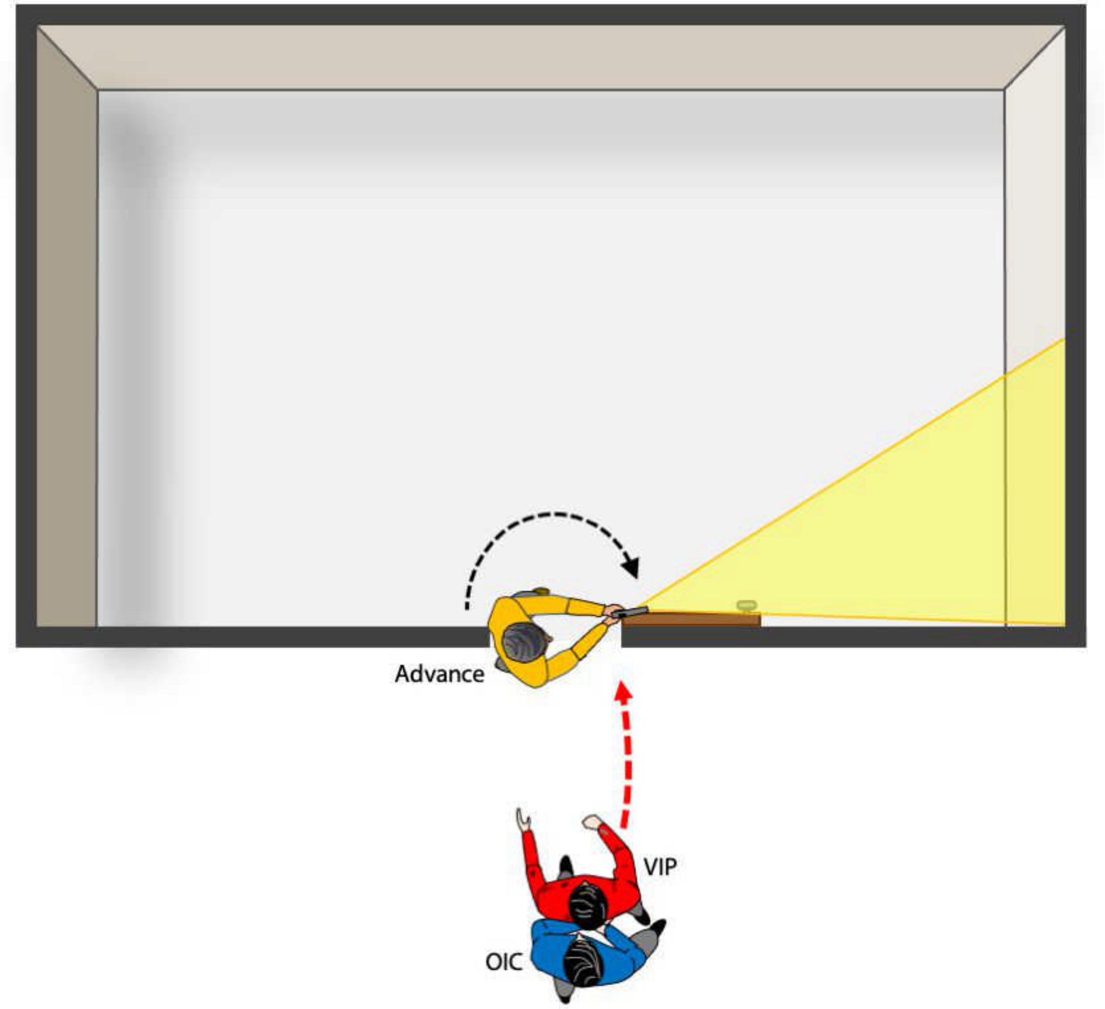
Once the Advance reaches the entry door, he/she will open it if needed. If the door opens inward, the Advance will clear the corner away from the door first. If the door opens outward, the Advance can choose which corner to clear first. If the Advance has time, he/she may want to conduct a sweep (also known as slice-the-pie or threshold evaluation) prior to entry. However, if speed is critical, the Advance will enter immediately without conducting a sweep.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 3: Advance Checks Corner Towards the Door

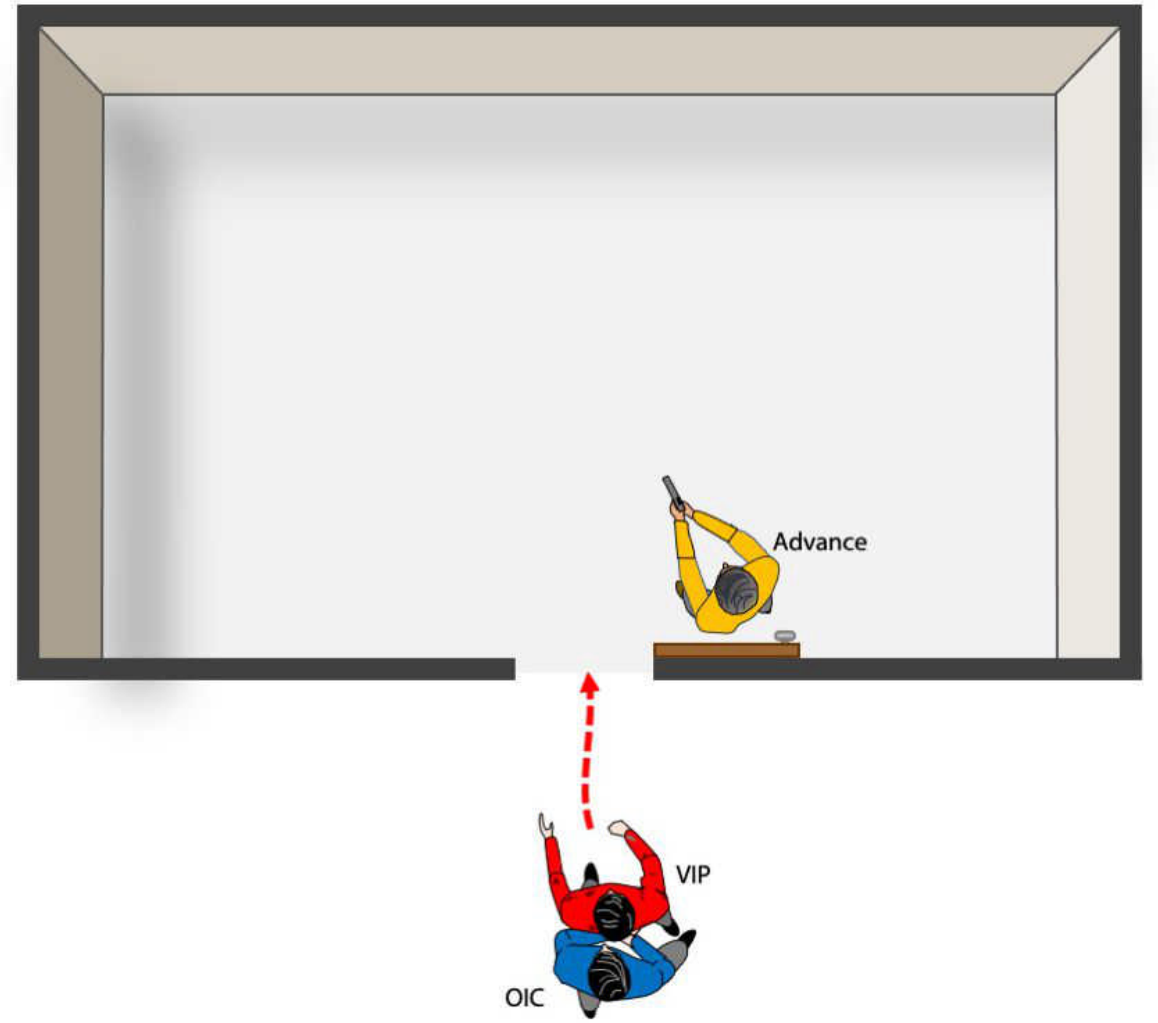
Once the Advance clears the first corner, he/she will quickly rotate 180-degrees to clear the other corner. When clearing the corners from the doorway, the Advance should expose as little of his/her body as possible.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 4: Advance Determines if Detail Will Enter

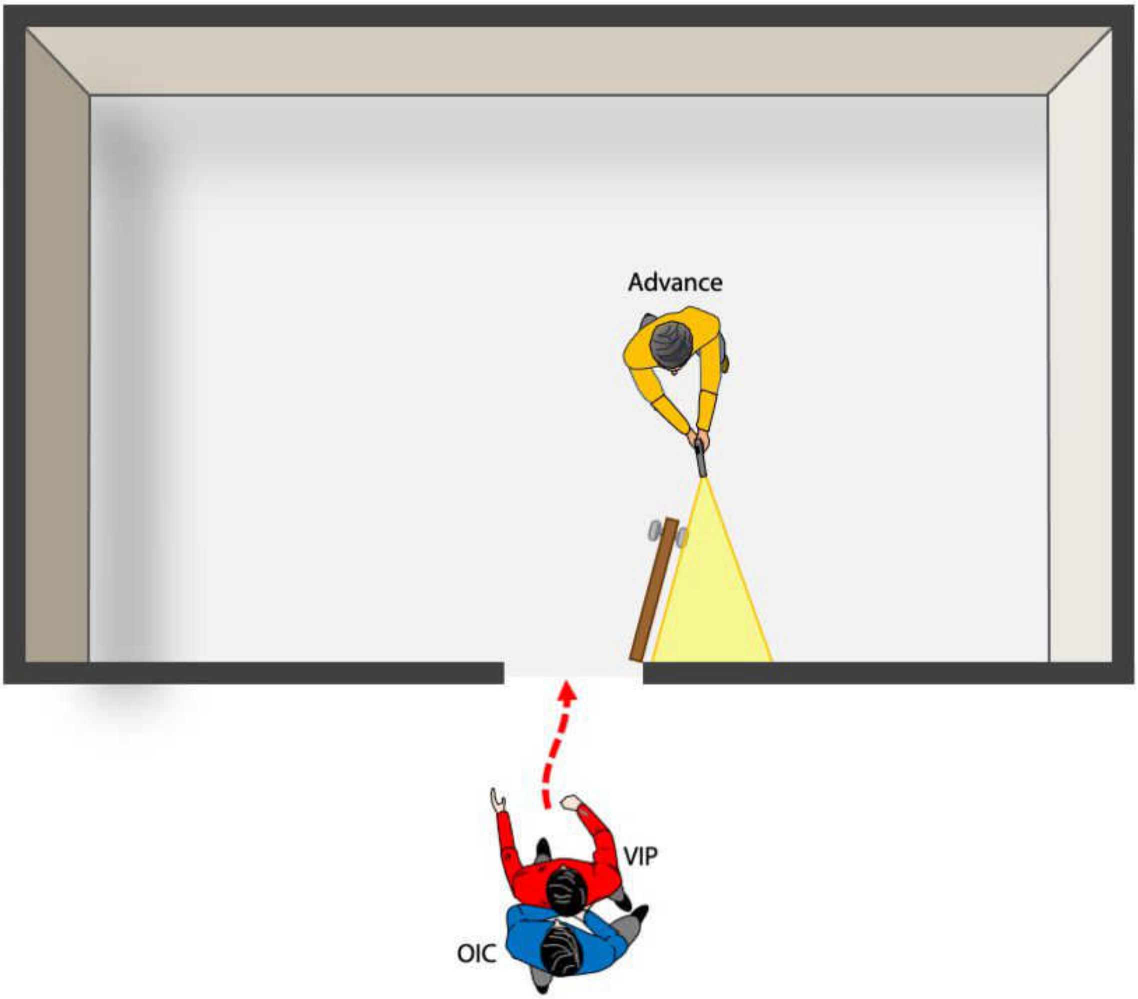
After clearing both corners, the Advance will quickly determine if the room or building is suitable as a temporary safe area for the VIP. If the Advance decides to call the VIP into the room, he/she will lean out the door and signal to the OIC. The Advance will then lead the way into the room and scan for threats. If the room is not suitable, the Advance will signal the OIC to keep the VIP back, then quickly step away from the doorway to lead the detail to another location.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 5: Advance Checks Behind the Door if Needed

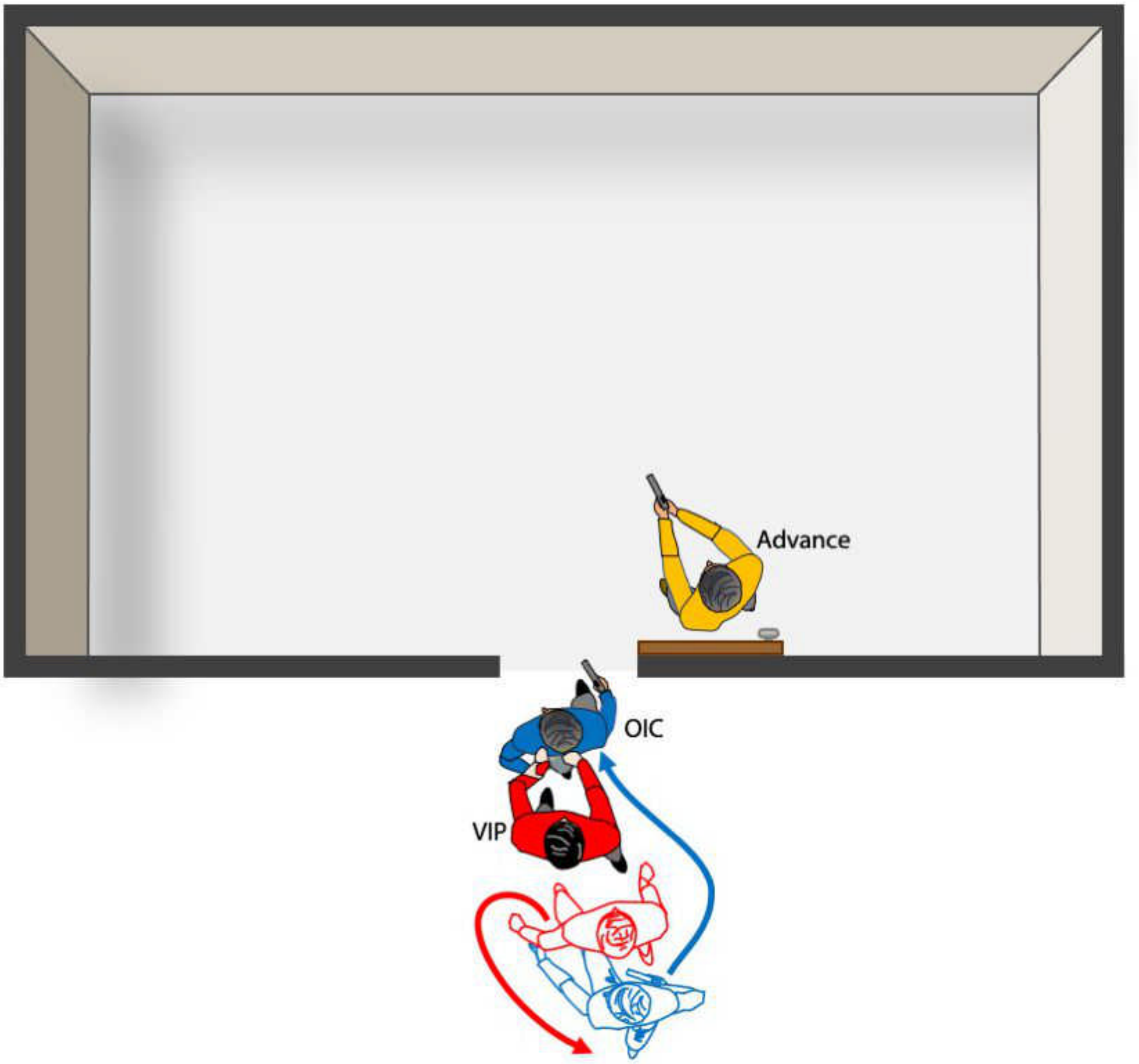
If the door opens inward, the Advance should quickly check behind the door to make sure no one is hiding there. Even if it appears that there is no one behind the door, it is always good practice to check behind the door for potential threats. When checking behind the door, the Advance must be careful not to point his/her weapon in the direction of the detail if the VIP is still coming into the room.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 6: OIC Switches to Lead (Optional)

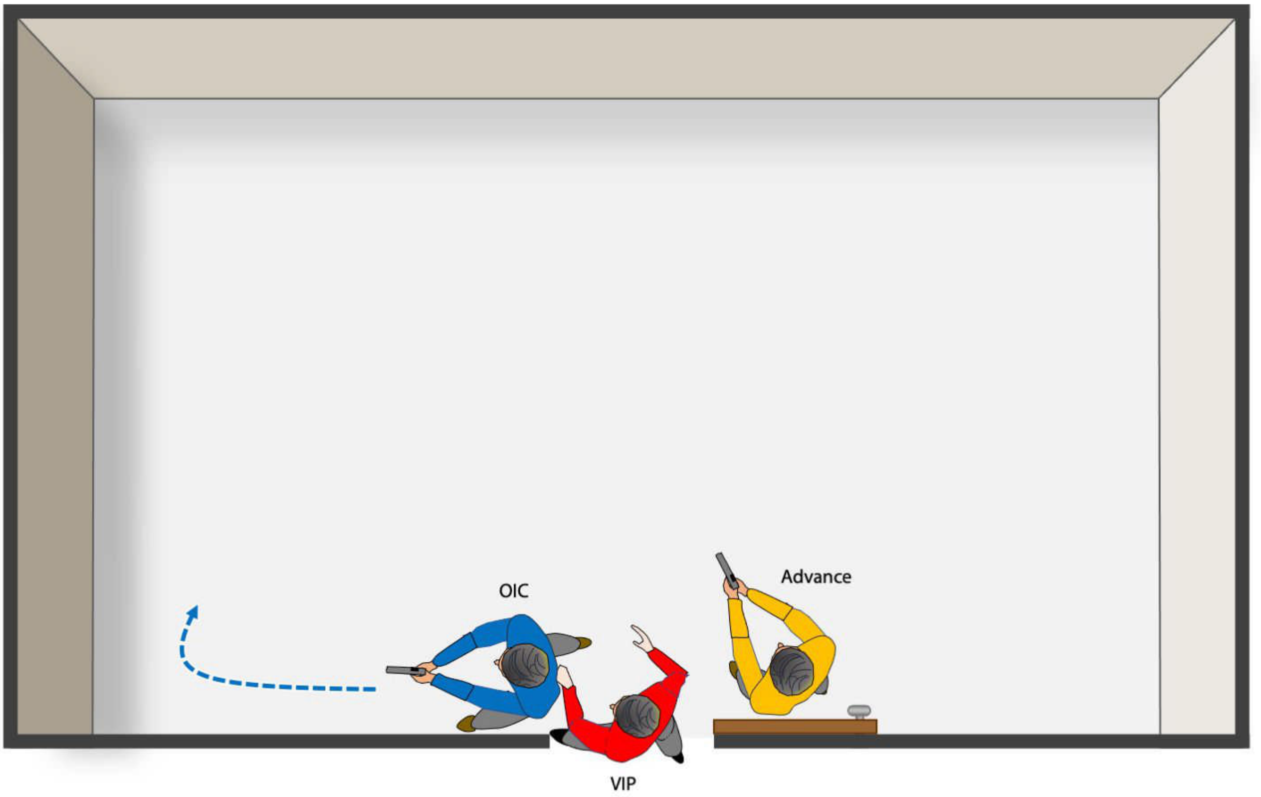
If there is time, the OIC may want to switch VIP control techniques, assuming the lead position and leading the VIP into the room. However, in other cases, the OIC may want to remain in the rear position and guide the VIP through the door. This is particularly the case if there are any potential threats to the rear. By staying behind the VIP, the OIC's body provides some shielding against incoming fire.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 7: OIC Enters Opposite the Advance

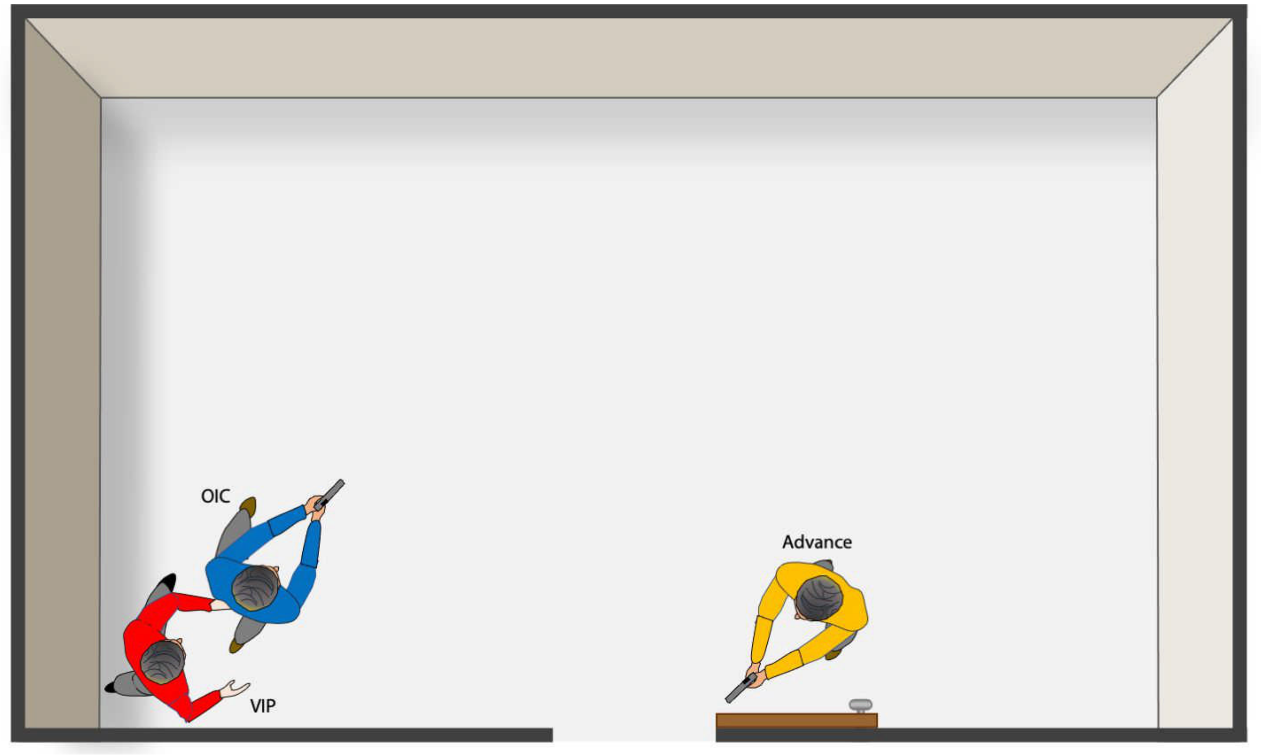
As the OIC and VIP enter the room, the OIC will still clear the corner and continue to check for threats as a redundant measure, even though the Advance is already providing cover in the room. In general, the OIC should turn in the opposite direction of the Advance, to ensure the Advance has a clear field of fire to engage any threats that emerge.



PROTECTION CQB: ADVANCE CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY

STEP 8: OIC Places VIP in the Corner

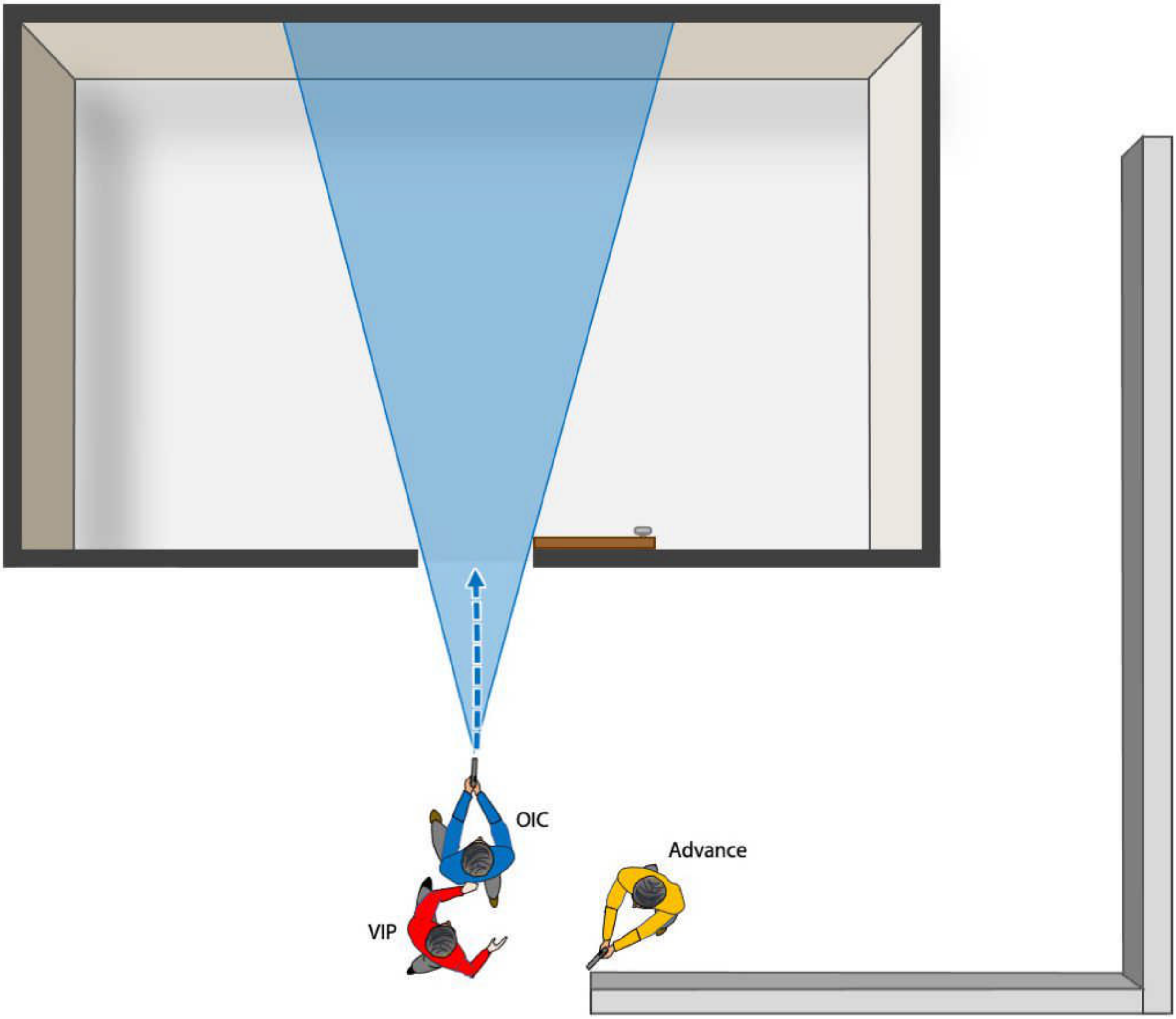
The OIC should place the VIP in the safest corner in the room and then shield the VIP from threats. Which corner is the safest depends on the situation and the configuration of the room. Always remember that most walls are not bulletproof and you need to be concerned about bullets coming through walls. While the OIC shields the VIP, the Advance should turn around and provide coverage to the rear or in the direction of greatest threat. In some situations, the Advance might want to close and lock doors in the room.



PROTECTION CQB: OIC CLEARS WITH VIP IN TOW

STEP 1: Advance Provides Rear Security

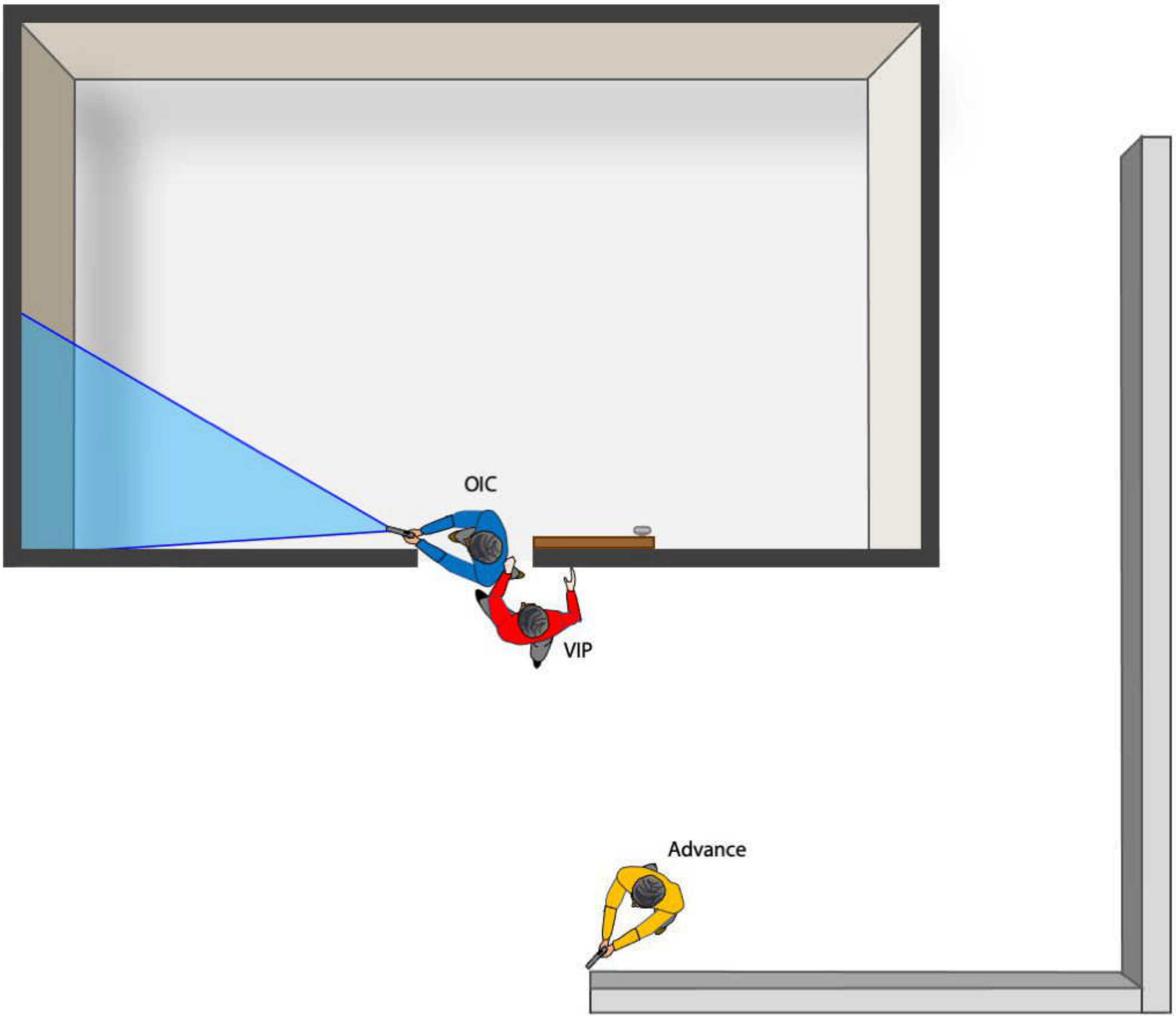
In this situation, the detail is threatened and needs to get the VIP to a temporary safe location. The most likely threat is to the rear and the Advance must provide covering fire to allow the OIC and the VIP to escape. This means that the OIC will need to enter and clear a nearby room or building with the VIP in tow. While it is possible for the OIC to leave the VIP outside the room while clearing ahead, if the detail is taking fire from the rear, it may be safer to bring the VIP into the room immediately, as long as there do not appear to be threats inside.



PROTECTION CQB: OIC CLEARS WITH VIP IN TOW

STEP 2: OIC Clears Opposite the Door

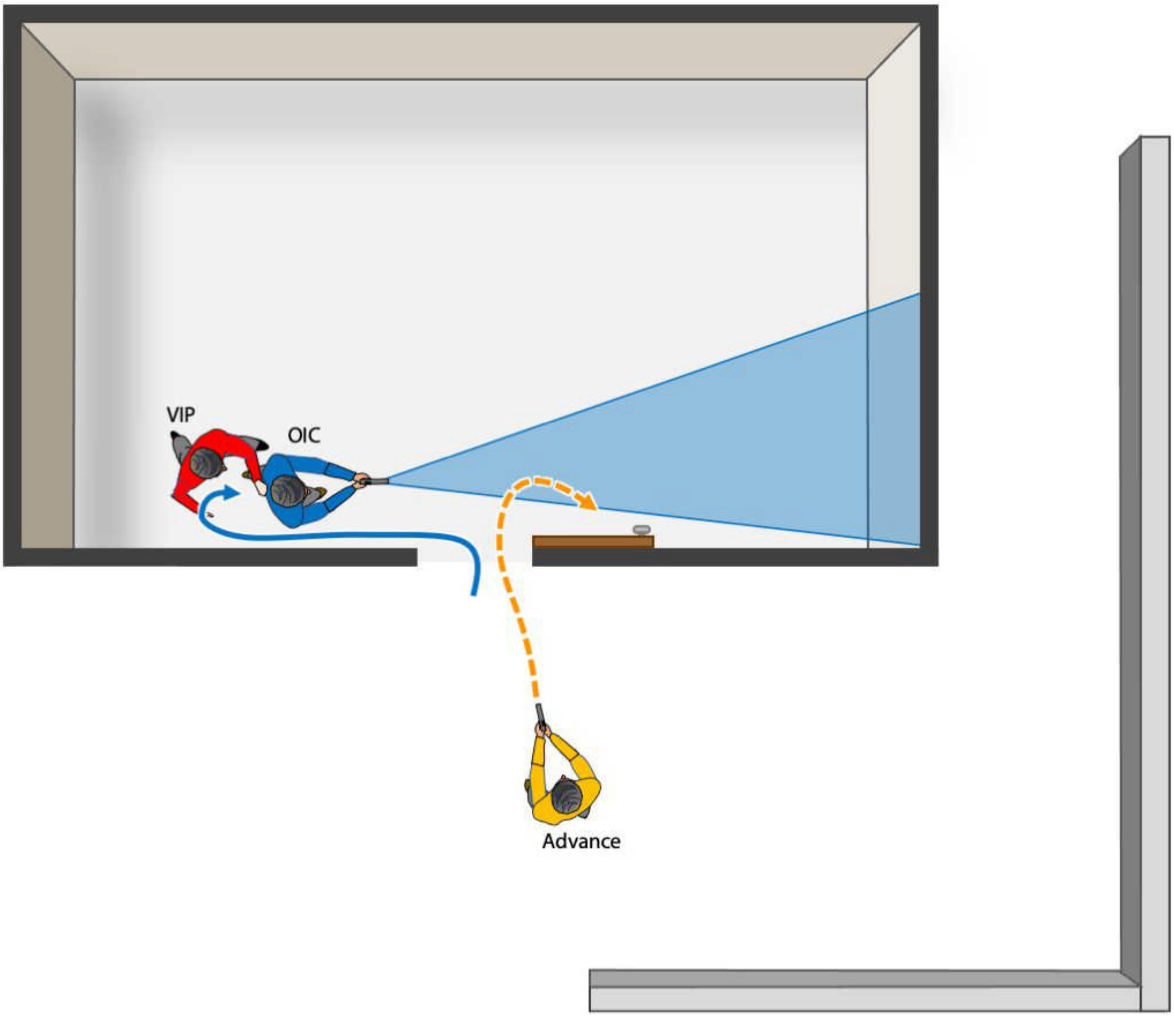
While the Advance provides rear security and covering fire as needed, the OIC enters a nearby building or room to look for a temporary safe location for the VIP. The OIC opens the door if needed, and then clears the first corner with the VIP in tow. If the door opens inward, the detail leader should generally clear the corner opposite the direction that the door opens.



PROTECTION CQB: OIC CLEARS WITH VIP IN TOW

STEP 3: Advance Enters Opposite the VIP

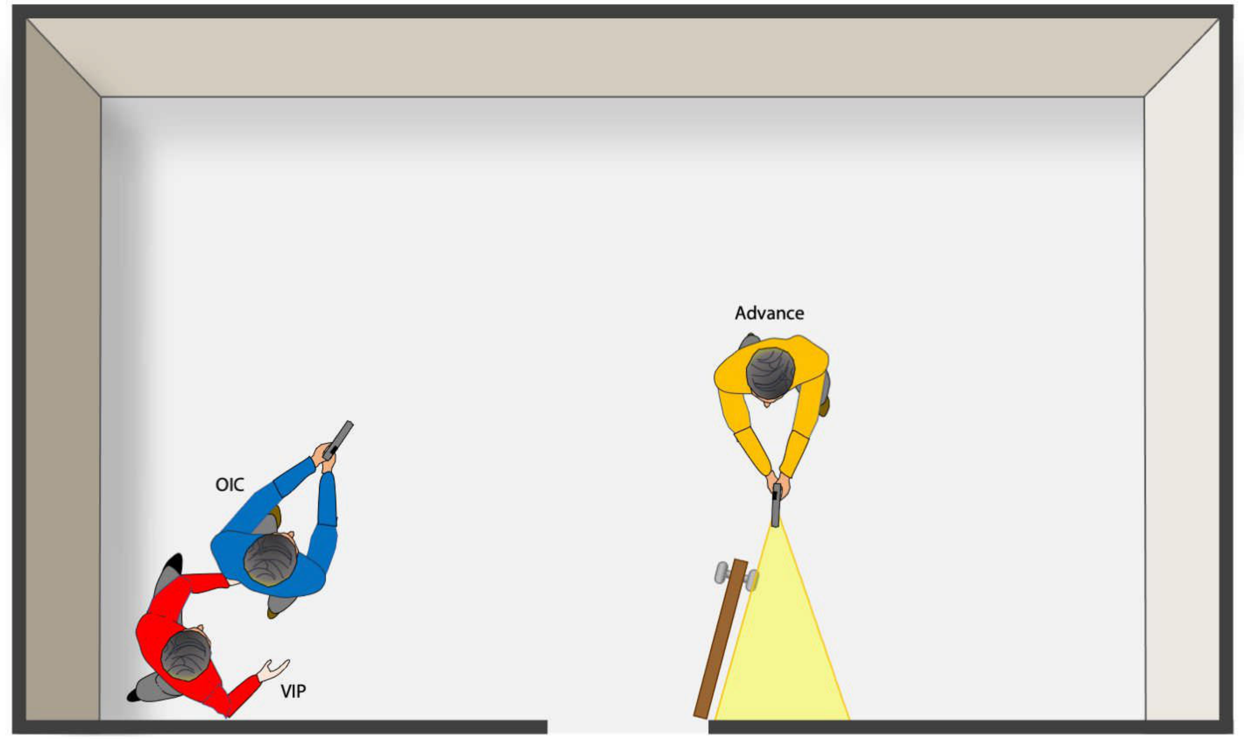
Once the first corner is clear, the OIC will pivot 180-degrees to clear the opposite corner. As long as the VIP holds on to the OIC's clothing, the VIP should naturally swing around behind the OIC. This clearing movement can be extremely dangerous since the VIP's back will be momentarily exposed to an uncleared corner. However, if the detail is actively taking fire from the rear and you have no reason to assume there is another threat inside the room, you might decide to take a calculated risk to get the VIP out of the line of fire more quickly. Once the VIP is safely inside the room, the Advance will give up rear security and follow into the room, moving in the opposite direction as the OIC. The Advance should call out to the OIC before entering avoid a potential friendly-fire incident.



PROTECTION CQB: OIC CLEARS WITH VIP IN TOW

STEP 4: Advance Checks Behind the Door

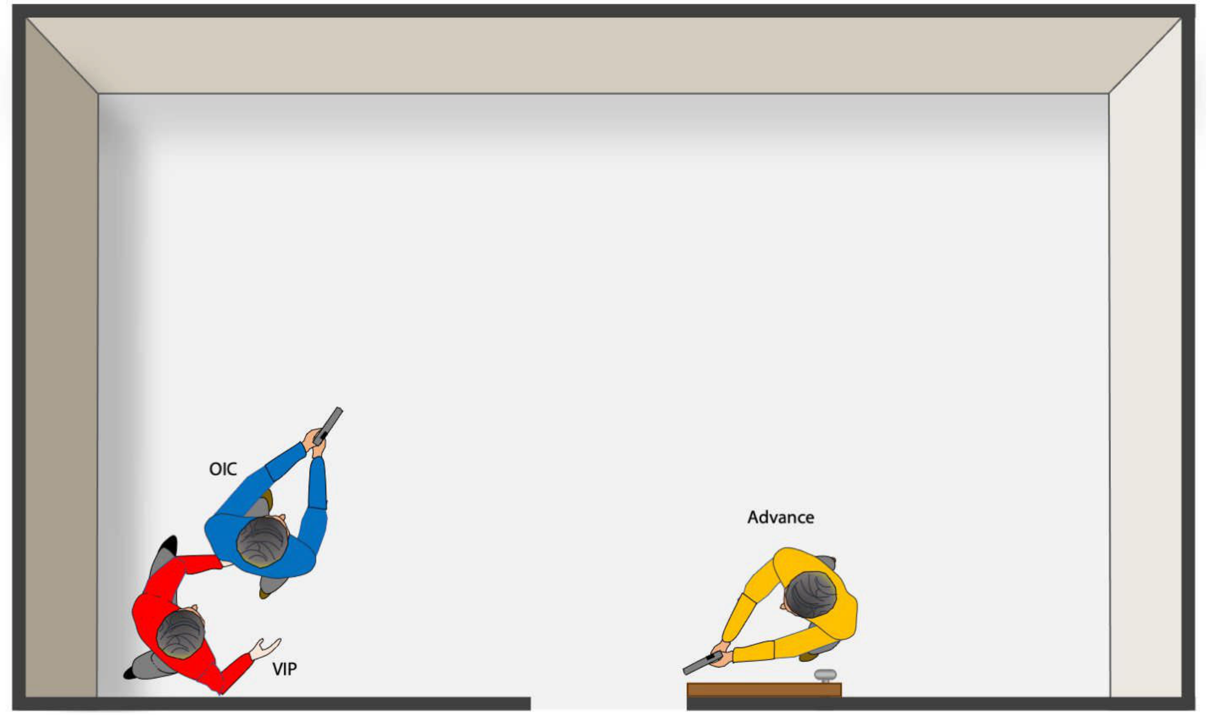
If the door opens inward, the Advance should quickly check behind the door to make sure no one is hiding there. Even if it appears that there is no one behind the door, it is always good practice to check behind the door for potential threats.



PROTECTION CQB: OIC CLEARS WITH VIP IN TOW

STEP 5: OIC Places VIP in the Corner

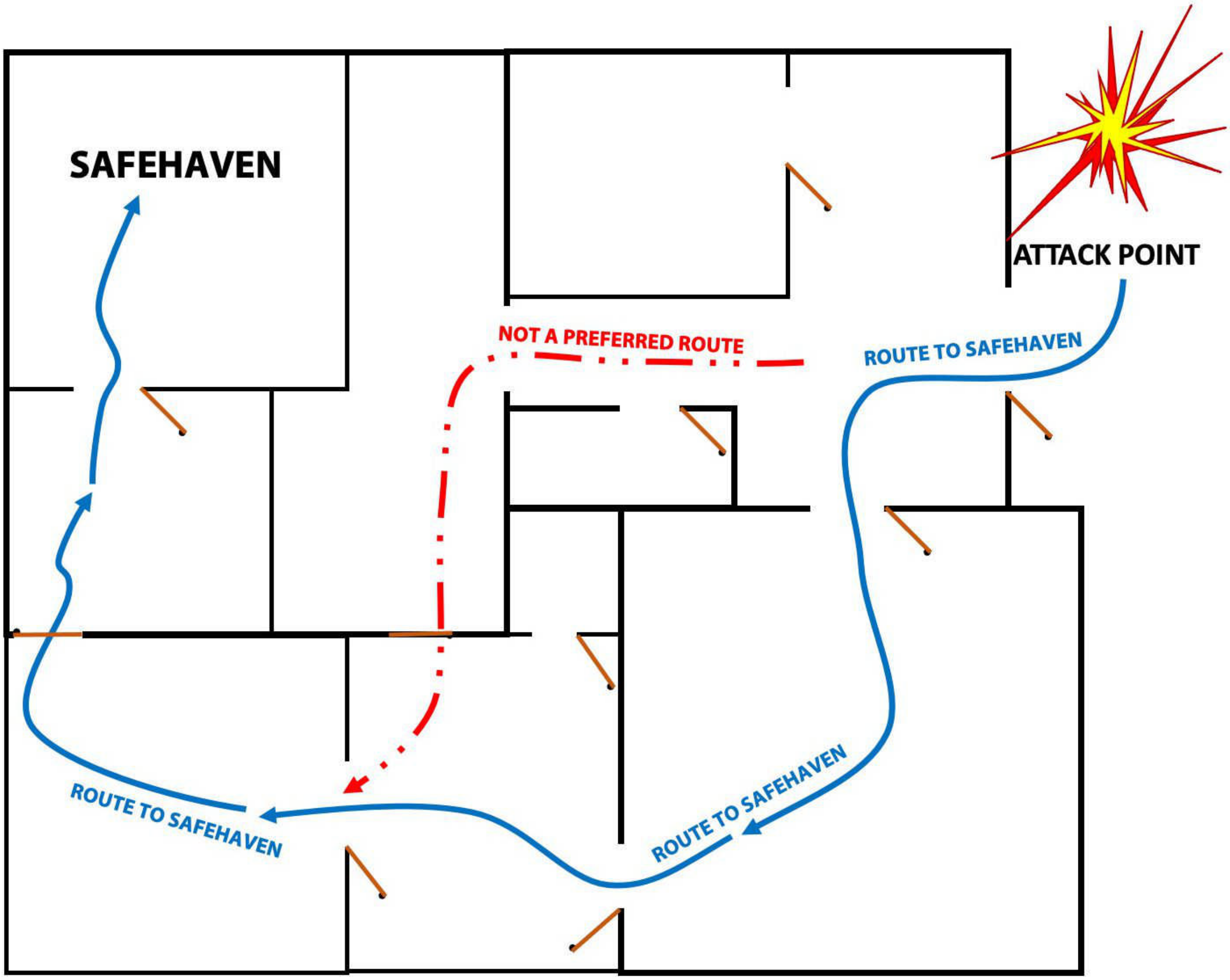
The OIC should place the VIP in the safest corner in the room and then shield the VIP from threats. Which corner is the safest depends on the situation and the configuration of the room. Always remember that most walls are not bulletproof and you need to be concerned about bullets coming through walls. While the OIC shields the VIP, the Advance should turn around and provide coverage to the rear or in the direction of greatest threat. In some situations, the Advance might want to close and lock doors in the room.



PROTECTION CQB: MOVING TO A SAFE HAVEN

Select the Best Route and Safe Haven

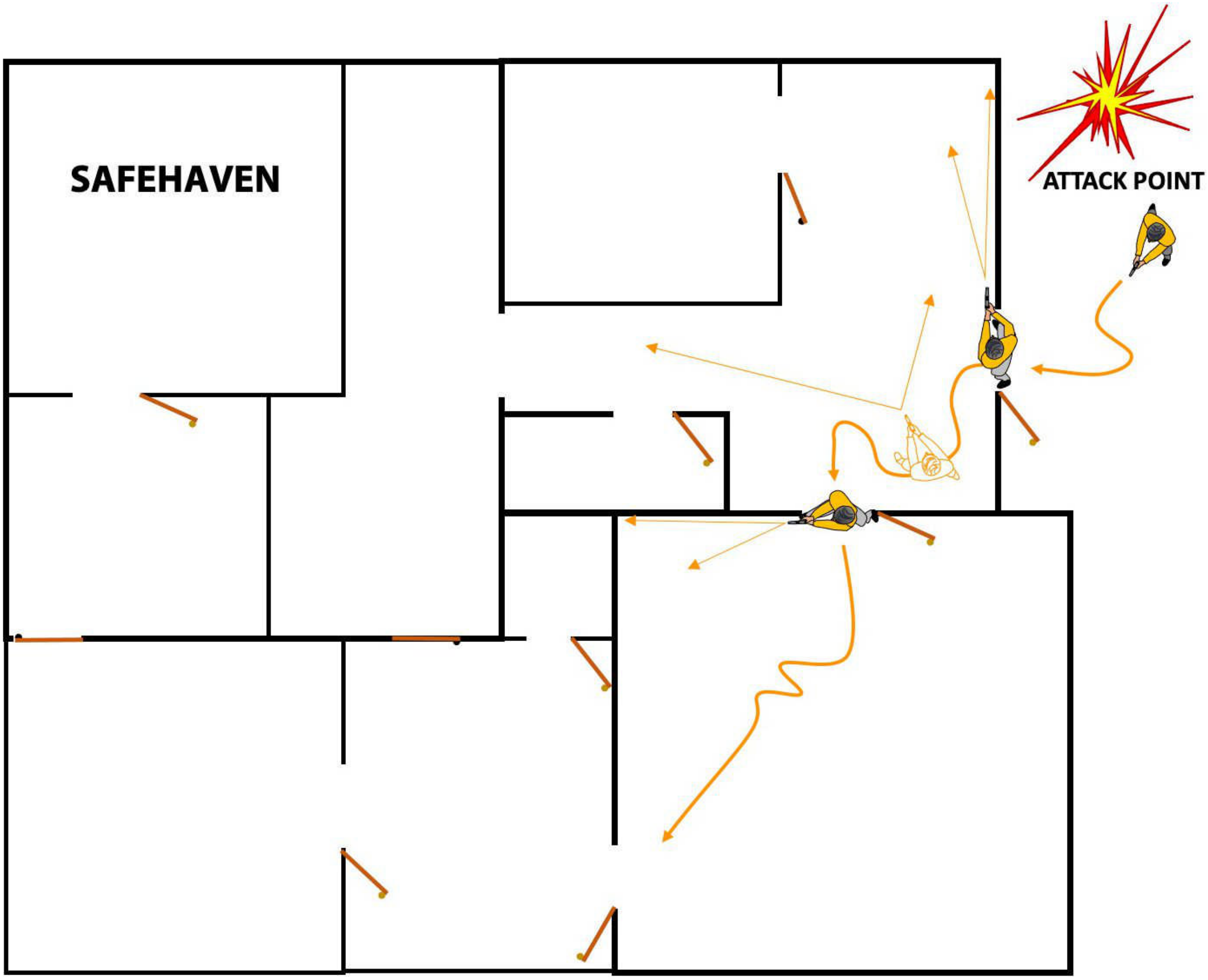
When selecting a safe haven, you are looking for a room or structure that is easily defensible with solid walls, plenty of cover/concealment and generally only one entry/exit where attackers can approach. However, if possible you should also have at least one possible escape route for the detail and the VIP that is preferably less obvious to attackers. A good safe haven gives the detail the option of establishing several, successive defensive positions to fall back from while providing early warning and delaying the attack. When moving to the safe haven it is best not to move down hallways with multiple points of exposure. It is better to move through individual rooms so you can transition to a hasty defensive posture in the room at any moment, close, lock and barricade the doors if appropriate. The diagram below shows a good route to an acceptable safe haven.



PROTECTION CQB: MOVING TO A SAFE HAVEN

Singleton Clearing Ahead of the VIP/Detail

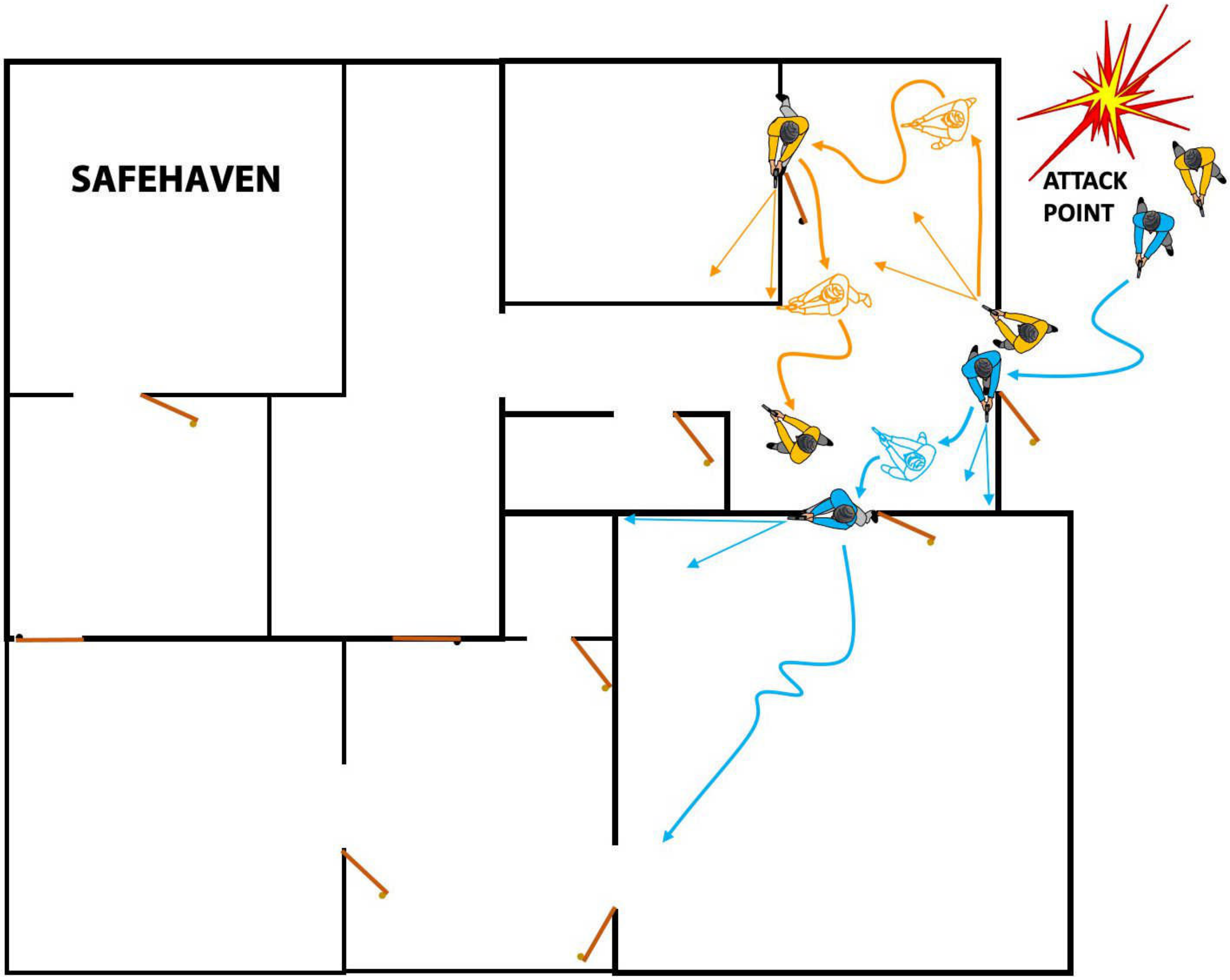
When moving to the safe haven, it is generally best to have one or more detail members scout ahead to establish the best route, ensure the route is safe, and clear the safe haven of any possible threats. Depending on the size of the detail and the situation, you may choose to send only one PSD member ahead to clear. In other cases, you might only have one person to send. In the diagram below, the PSD member uses a variety of singleton clearing techniques to move along the route towards the safe haven.



PROTECTION CQB: MOVING TO A SAFE HAVEN

Two-Person Clearing Ahead of the VIP/Detail

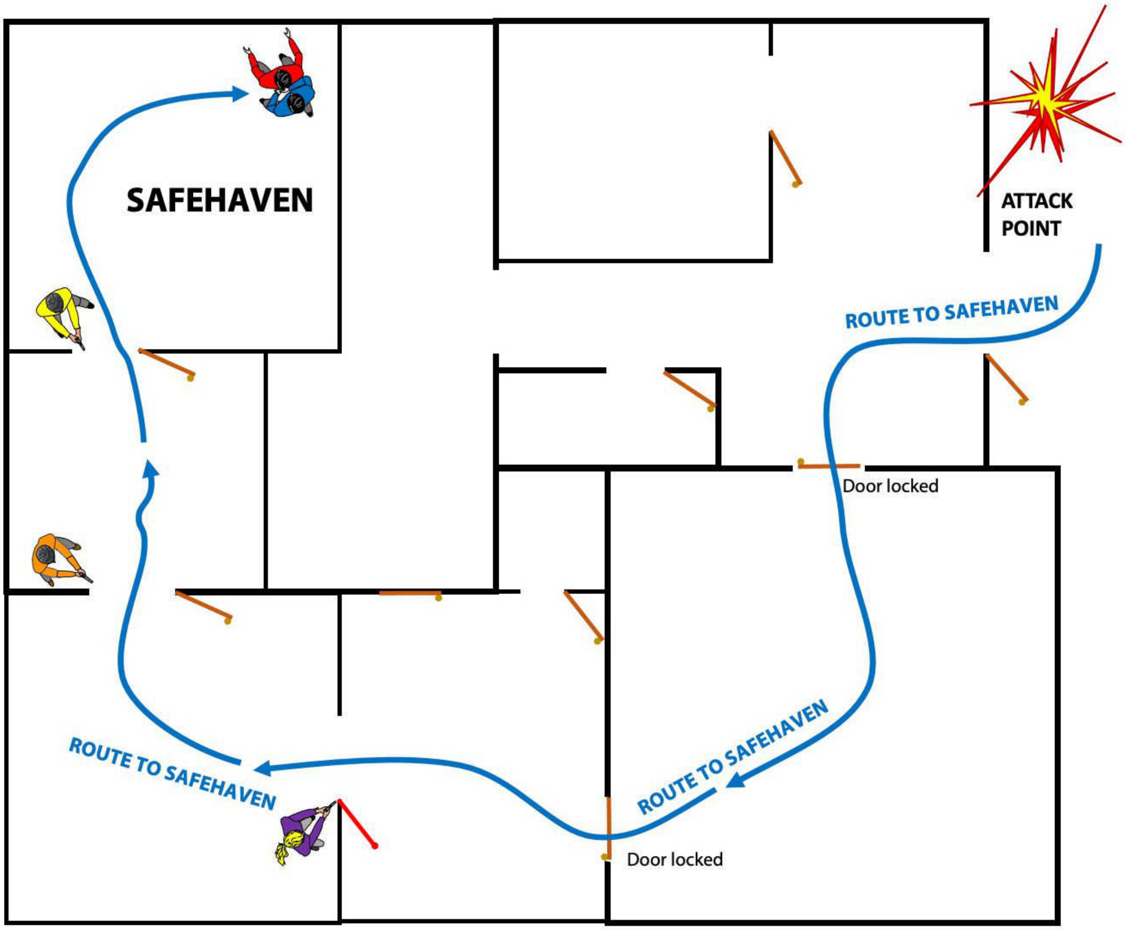
In some cases, the OIC or SL might decide to send forward two PSD members to establish the best route, ensure the route is safe, and clear the safe haven of any possible threats. Sending two people instead of one is always safer for the clearing team. In some cases you might even be able to send three people. However, in an escort detail of no more than four detail members this is less likely since you will probably want to leave more than one detail member with the VIP. Therefore, a two-person clearing team is a good option for a 4-person detail. In the diagram below, the clearing team uses a variety of techniques to move along the route towards the safe haven.



PROTECTION CQB: MOVING TO A SAFE HAVEN

Establishing Fallback Positions

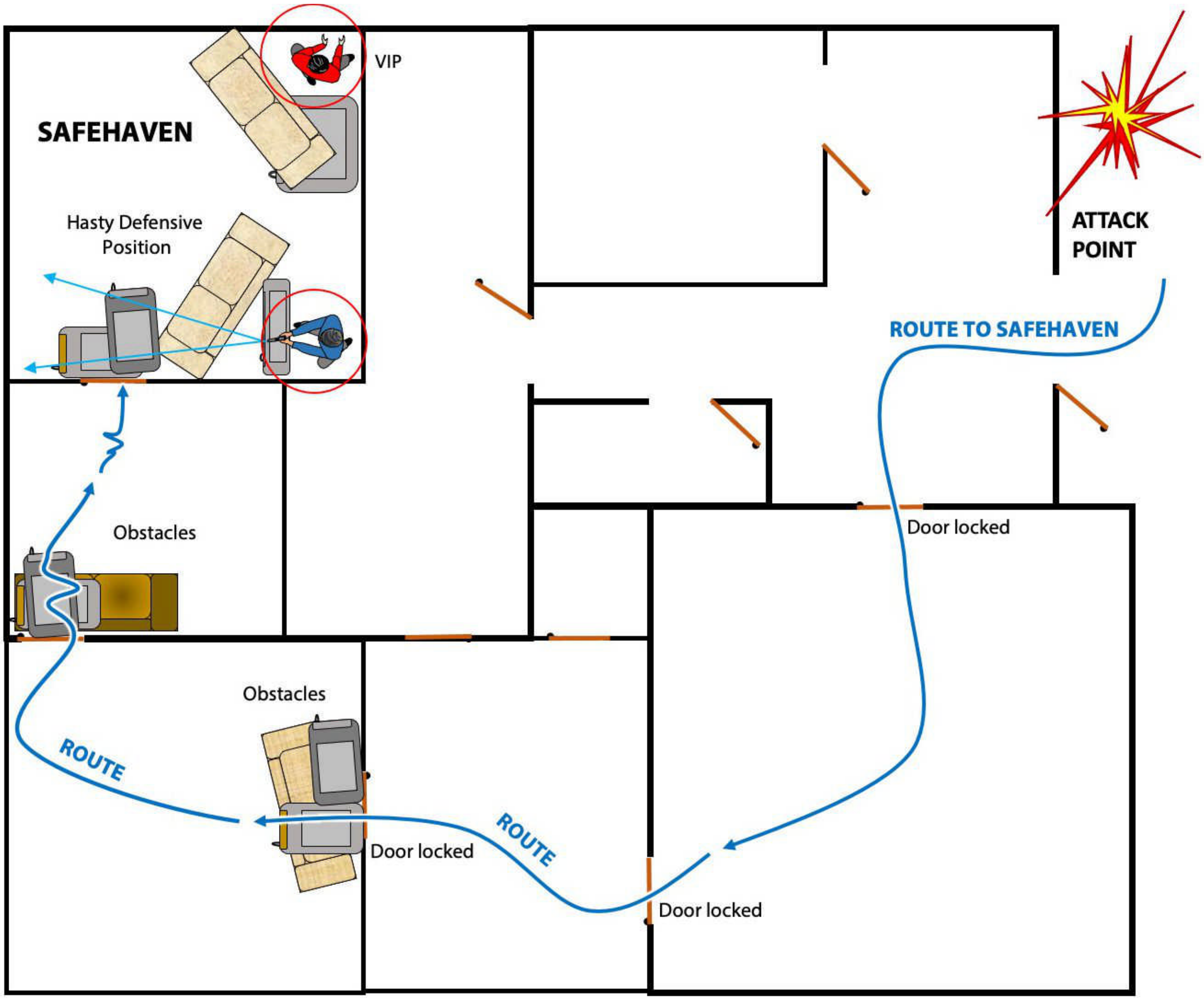
After clearing the route with either one or two detail members, the rest of the detail can quickly move the VIP along the route to the safe haven. Depending on the size of the detail, you may want to post detail members at key points along the route to help direct and guide the OIC and VIP to the right location. Once the OIC and VIP are in the safe haven, if you have a larger detail you may went to send detail members out to establish defensive fallback positions along the expected route of hostile attack. In military terms, you are setting up a defense-in-depth. In preparing this defense you will generally want to lock any doors you are not manning. In the example below, detail members have posted themselves to defend from doors leading back to the VIP. This defensive plan will delay a hostile attack as much as possible, while also providing early warning of an incoming attack to the VIP. However, when setting up the defense, it is important to ensure detail members do not accidentally shoot each other or step into each others' lines of fire. Good communication and control measures are critical for this approach.



PROTECTION CQB: MOVING TO A SAFE HAVEN

Barricading Doors

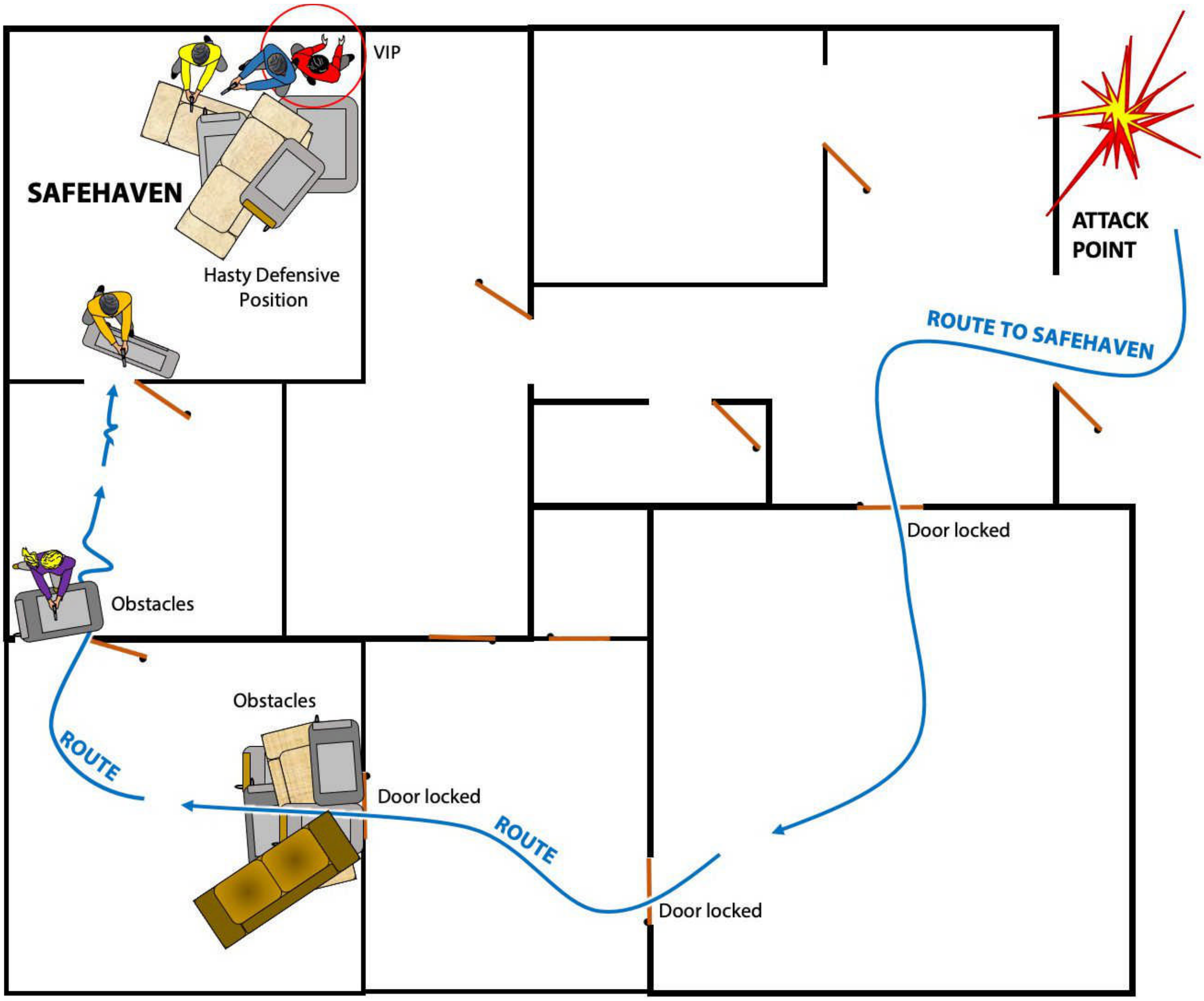
In addition to setting up fallback positions and locking doors, you may want to barricade doors with furniture and heavy objects. This approach can be useful for smaller details that do not have enough personnel to establish successive fallback positions. Barricading doors will delay the hostile attack and also provide early warning for the detail since it will be easy to hear attackers trying to break through barricades. The example below shows a heavily barricaded safe haven constructed by a singleton detail that had plenty of time to prepare and strengthen the defense. When building up defenses, it is important not build them up so much that the detail becomes completely trapped and vulnerable to fire or smoke. It is important not to leave the VIP alone for extended periods when preparing defenses.


VIP
SAFEHAVEN
Hasty Defensive Position
ATTACK POINT
ROUTE TO SAFEHAVEN
Door locked
Obstacles
Obstacles
ROUTE
ROUTE
Door locked
Door locked

PROTECTION CQB: MOVING TO A SAFE HAVEN

Complex Defensive Preparations

If you have a larger detail, the ideal safe haven combines a variety of different defensive measures including locked doors, barricades/obstacles and fallback defensive positions. The example below shows how a four-person detail might prepare a hasty defensive position to protect the VIP in the safe haven. When constructing defenses, it is always critical to think through your plan and determine how each detail member will react and fall back under fire. You do not want to set up your defense in a way that traps or isolates any part of the detail.


VIP
SAFEHAVEN
Hasty Defensive Position
ATTACK POINT
ROUTE TO SAFEHAVEN
Door locked
Obstacles
Obstacles
ROUTE
Door locked
ROUTE
Door locked

SPECIAL EVENTS

Speeches and Public Appearances

One of the most common tasks in venue security missions is protecting the VIP at a special event where there will be a large audience or crowd. Special events present many challenges for the protective detail and require careful planning and rehearsal. First, the large crowd presents many opportunities for an attacker to blend in with his/her surroundings to get close to the VIP. Depending on the situation, the protective detail may or may not have control over the event security personnel or procedures. The PSD Advance should coordinate with any event security personnel or local law enforcement before the event to ensure effective cooperation.

Events also present a challenge for the detail because a rowdy or unruly crowd might not cause physical harm to the VIP, but rather might seek to embarrass or humiliate the VIP. These types of attacks (such as throwing eggs and fluids) can be difficult to prevent or protect against. The detail therefore needs to be prepared to deal with a wide range of possible threats and problems, not just lethal attacks.

Finally, special events present a greater challenge because in many cases the VIP will want to give an outward appearance of being open, welcoming and warm. This means that the VIP might not want people to see the security detail since the presence of security personnel can seem threatening to some people. If the security detail is used to wearing armored plate carriers, helmets and carrying rifles/carbines, the VIP might specify that the detail wear suits and carry only concealed weapons. The VIP's needs in terms of appearance can affect the capabilities and plans of the security detail.

While there are an unlimited number of special events a VIP could attend, this section focuses primarily on speeches or public appearances, taking place in an auditorium, theater, stadium or outdoor area. These types of events are among the most common a security detail will need to plan for when protecting most VIPs. You will need to adjust your mission-specific positioning and techniques based on the particulars of the environment or structure you are operating in. However, this section covers some fundamental principles and concepts that remain relatively consistent regardless of the particular venue.

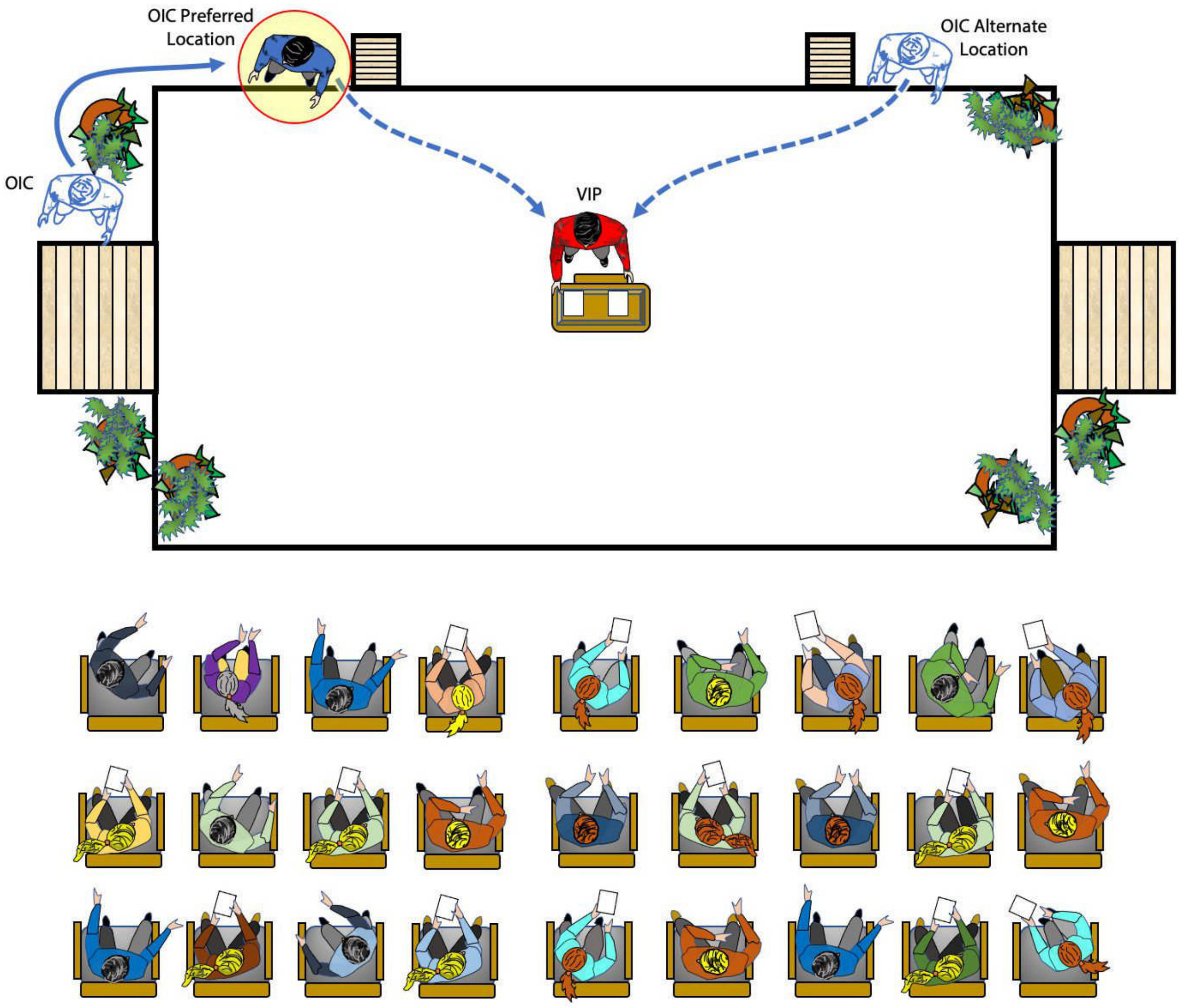
When providing security for a VIP on a podium or delivering a speech the most important factors to consider are angle and distance. If a member of the audience gets up and charges at the VIP, you must be able to intercept that individual to prevent them from touching the VIP. Depending on the arrangement of the podium, stage, seating area and other structures, there might be a limited number of places where you can position yourself that will allow you to reach the VIP in time to intercept the attack. This becomes more difficult if the VIP prefers the detail to remain hidden or discrete. In some cases, if a stage has curtains, a good option can be for detail members to position hidden behind the curtains.

There are no fixed rules for protecting the VIP while escorting him/her to the speaking area and assuming security positions around the stage to intercept attacks. You should practice these tactics and procedures in different environments whenever possible and watch videos of past attacks to see what works and what doesn't work. When positioning to intercept an attack, it is also important to remember that audience members might throw non-lethal objects to embarrass the VIP. When responding to a thrown object you have very little time to react. You should consider this when planning your positioning around the stage. Ideally, you should be able to get to the VIP and knock down a thrown object before it can cause any injury or embarrassment.

SPEECHES: ON-STAGE EVENTS

Singleton Escort Positioning

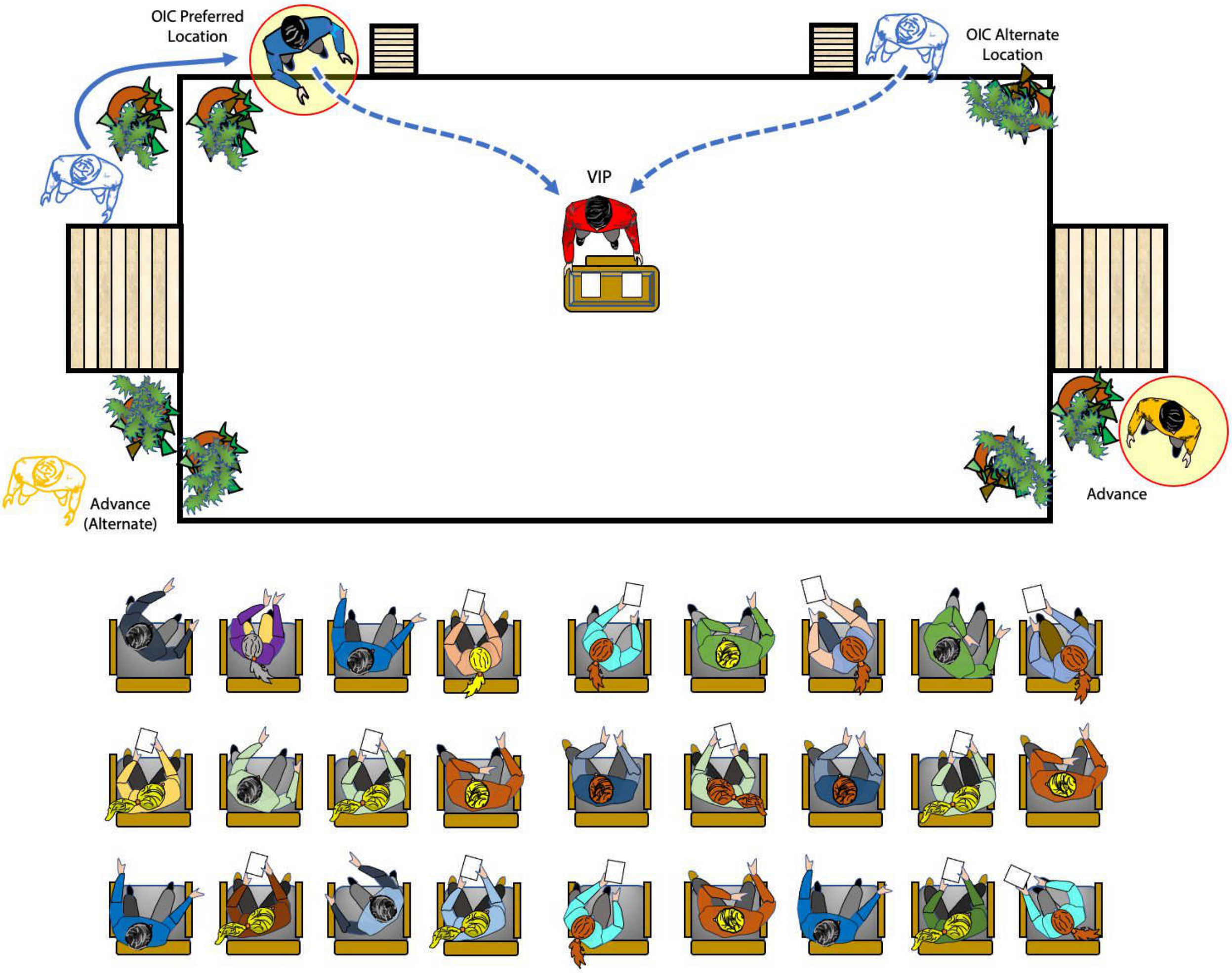
As already discussed, the most important factors to consider when positioning detail members for an on-stage event are angle and distance. If a member of the audience gets up and charges at the VIP, you must be able to intercept that individual to prevent them from touching the VIP. This becomes even more difficult with a singleton detail because while an attack could come from any direction, the OIC can only be in one place at a time. This means the OIC might have to move around based on the situation. In the diagram below, the OIC might choose to position near the staircase to the podium as the VIP walks on stage. However, this position leaves the VIP very exposed to an attack from the opposite side of the stage. Therefore, the OIC will want to move to the primary or alternate locations as needed to shorten the distance to the VIP.



SPEECHES: ON-STAGE EVENTS

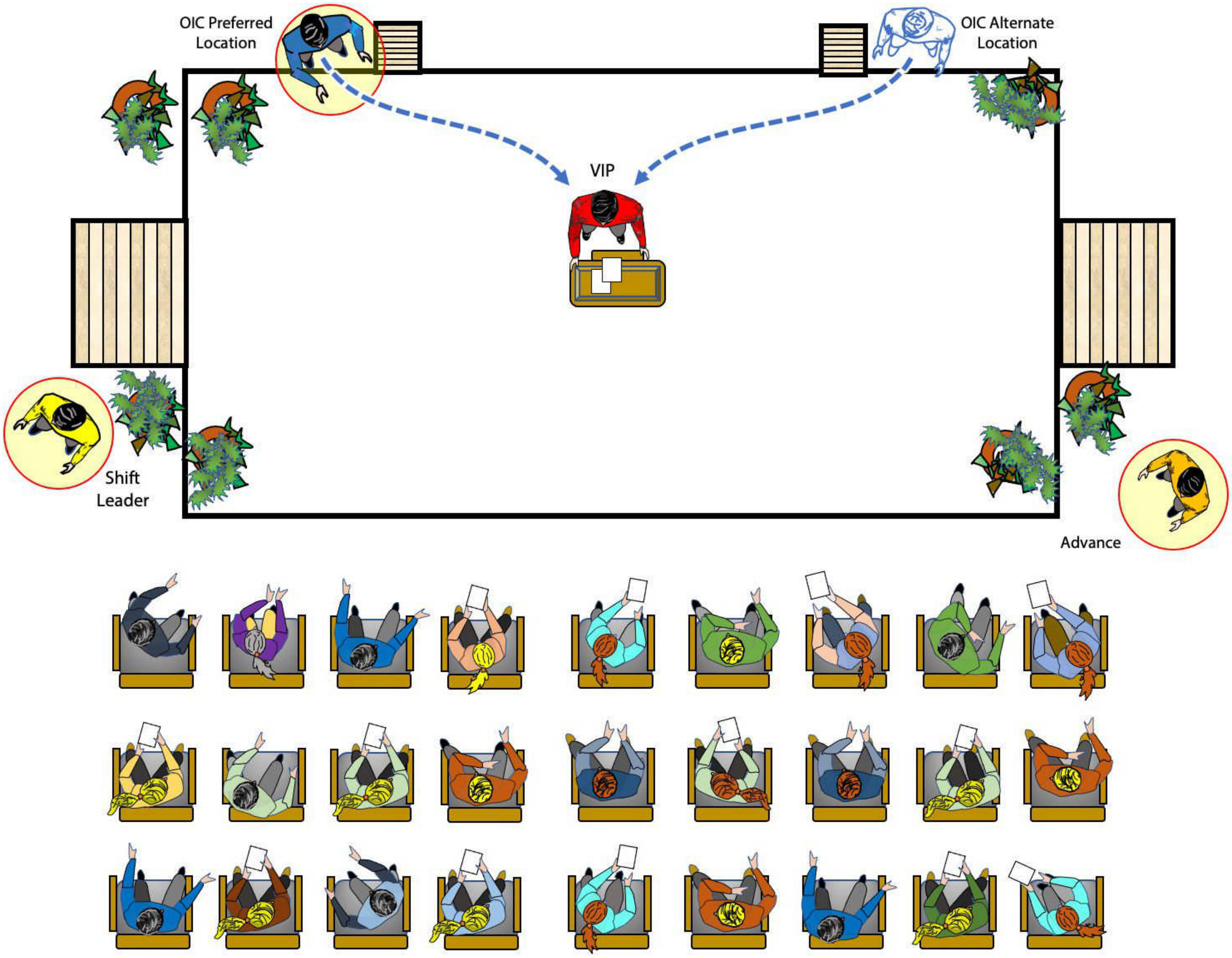
Two-Person Escort Positioning

Adding an additional detail member makes it slightly easier to plan for the right intercept angles and distance to stop an attack before it reaches the VIP. The OIC will generally want to position in the same primary or alternate locations behind the VIP. The Advance can position somewhere near the front of the podium and to the side. In most cases, the OIC and Advance will not want to be on the same side, unless there is some reason to expect the attack will only come from that direction. Having one detail member on each side increases the number of possible intercept angles based on an attack from anywhere in the crowd.


OIC Preferred Location
OIC Alternate Location
VIP
Advance (Alternate)
Advance

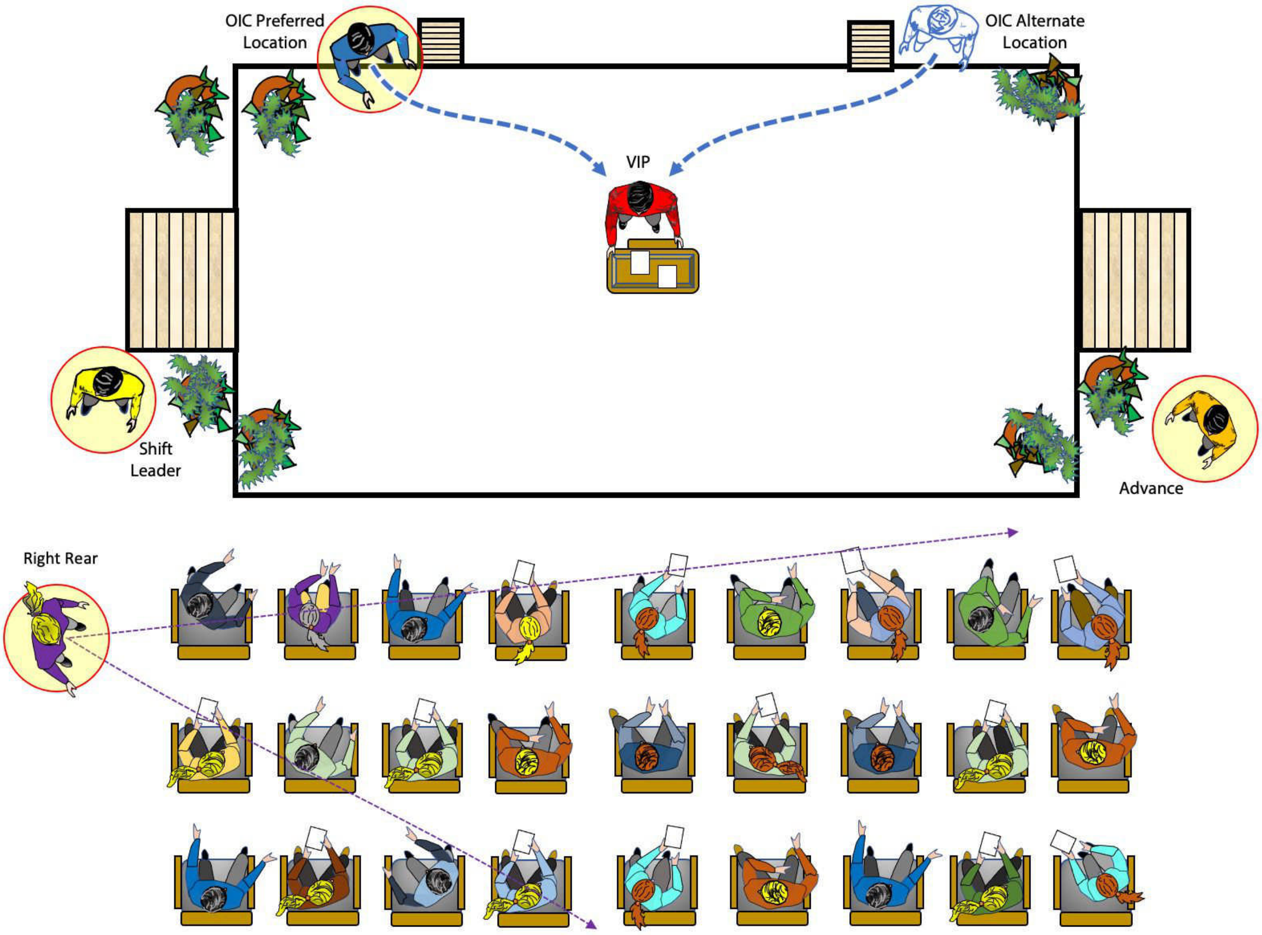
Three-Person Escort Positioning

A three-person escort greatly increases the detail's ability to intercept an attack. The Advance and SL can cover the right and left sides of the stage in position to intercept someone coming from the audience before they get to the podium. The OIC will remain in the same position and can act as a backup to block the VIP from anyone who manages to get past the Advance and SL. The OIC can also focus on evacuating the VIP while the Advance and/or SL intercept and deal with an incoming threat.


OIC Preferred Location
OIC Alternate Location
VIP
Shift Leader
Advance

Four-Person Escort Positioning

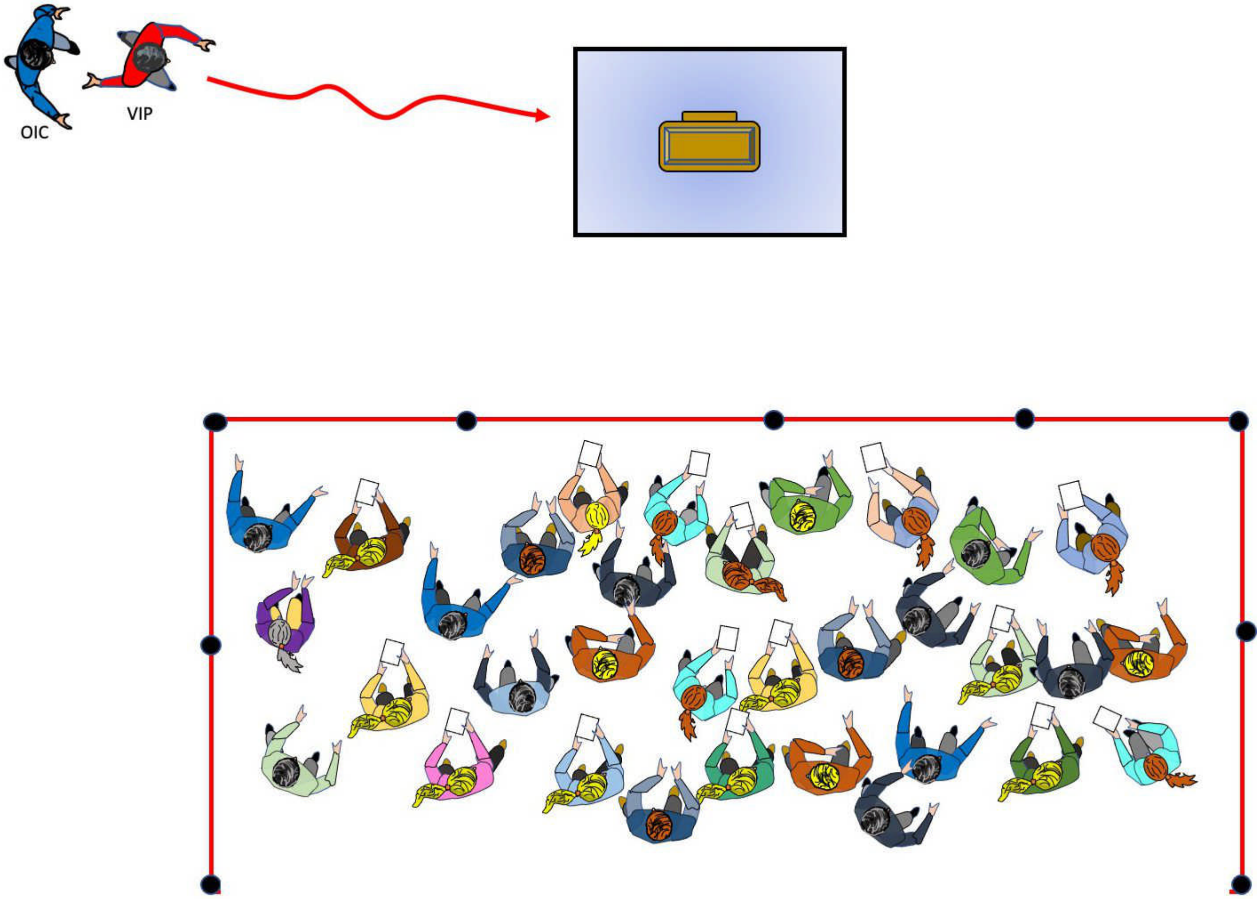
A four-person escort offers the most effective protection for the VIP and the greatest number of options for the detail. In the formation depicted below, the detail can still provide right and left side intercept capability and leave the OIC in position to protect the VIP from close threats. However, with the four-person escort you can also assign one detail member to focus on watching the audience from the right or left side. This observation angle offers great advantages over the personnel watching from the stage area. In the diagram below, the Right Rear (RR) can better see what audience members are doing with their hands, better observe their mannerisms and body language. This is particularly useful to identify and neutralize attacks involving or thrown projectiles or weapons.



SPEECHES: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 1: Move to the Podium in Formation

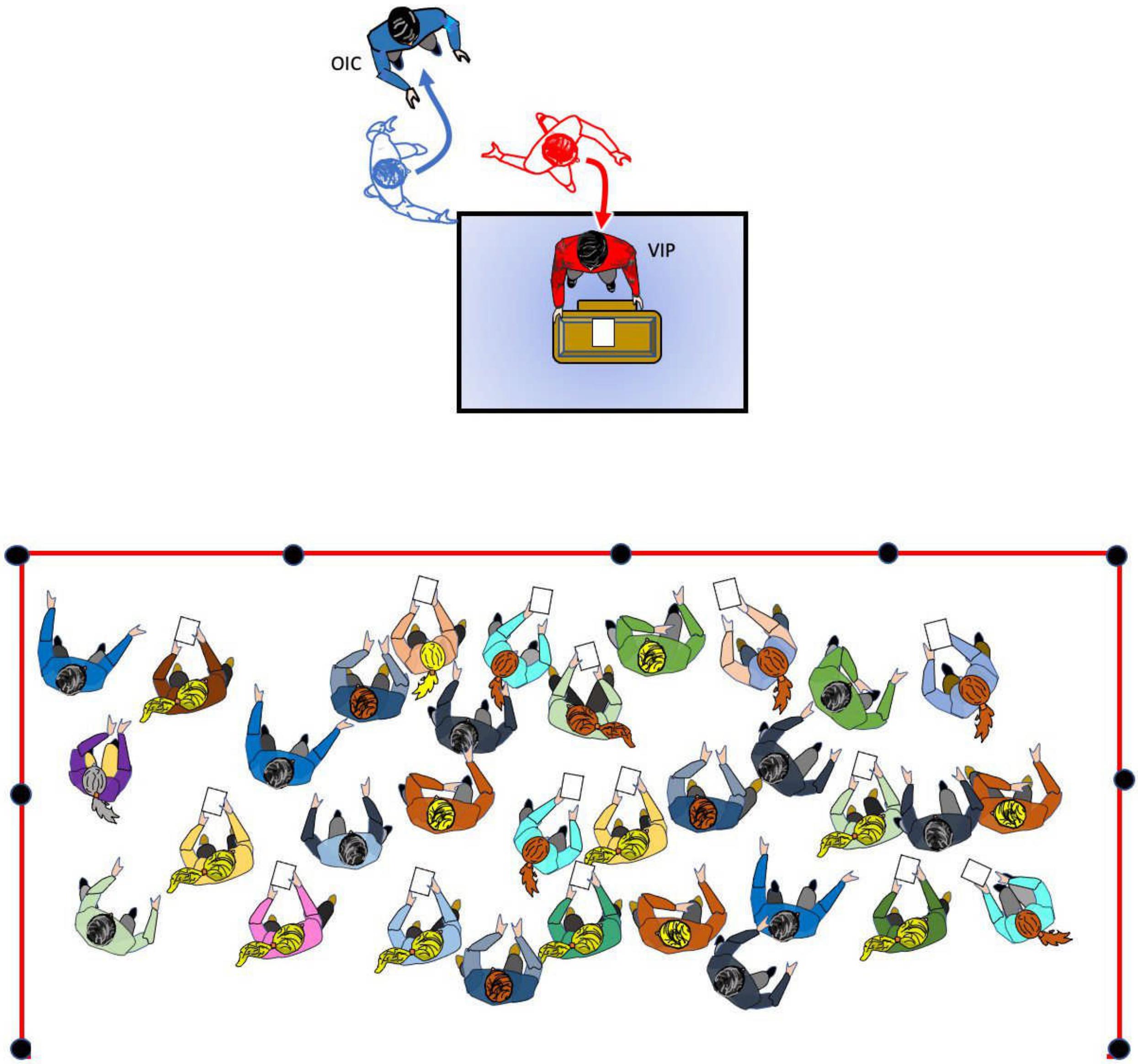
To escort the VIP to the podium, the OIC will start by moving in its standard walking formation. The OIC will adjust position slightly to the left or right based on the situation while remaining alert for potential threats from any direction. When operating as a singleton escort, it can prove extremely challenging for the OIC to provide 360-coverage for the VIP without the help of additional detail members.



SPEECHES: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 2: Assume Protective Position Behind the VIP

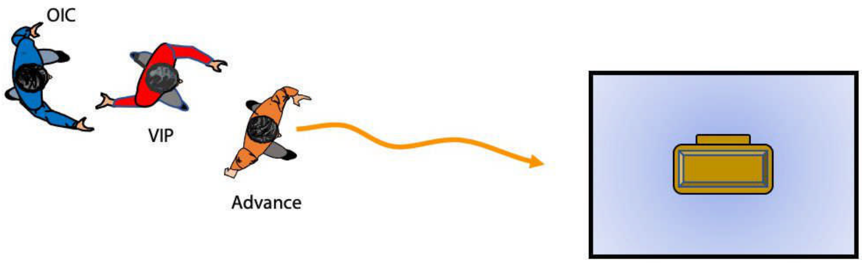
The OIC should remain within arm's reach of the VIP until the VIP reaches the podium or speaking area. At this point the OIC should back away to his/her designated position, remaining alert for threats and being prepared to adjust position if needed.

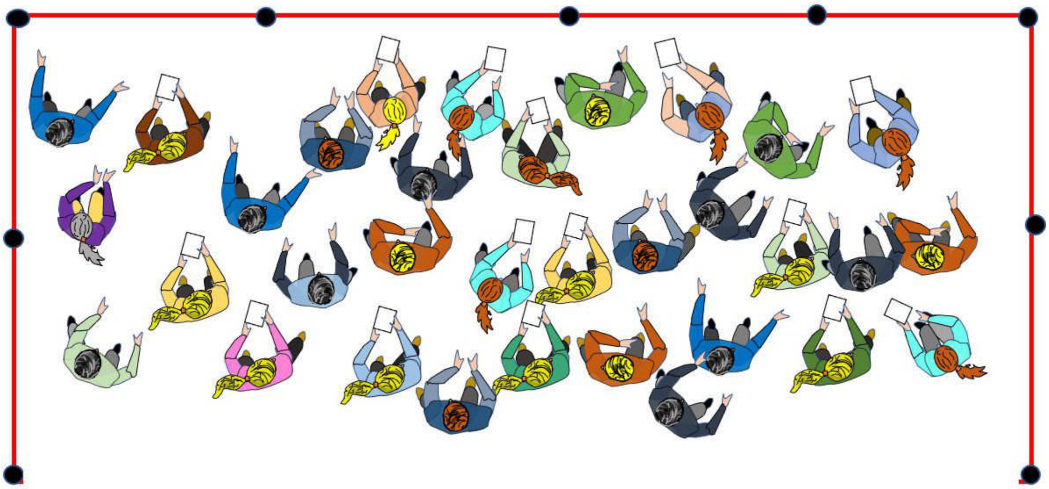


SPEECHES: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Move to the Podium in Formation

To escort the VIP to the podium, the detail will start by moving in its standard walking formation. Detail members will adjust position based on the situation and stay alert for potential threats from any direction.

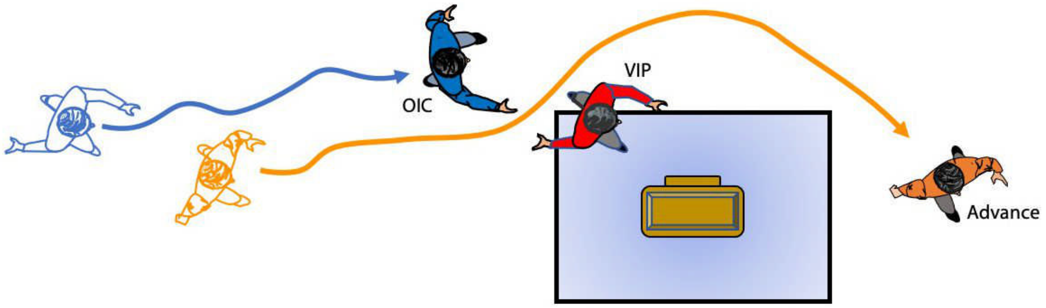


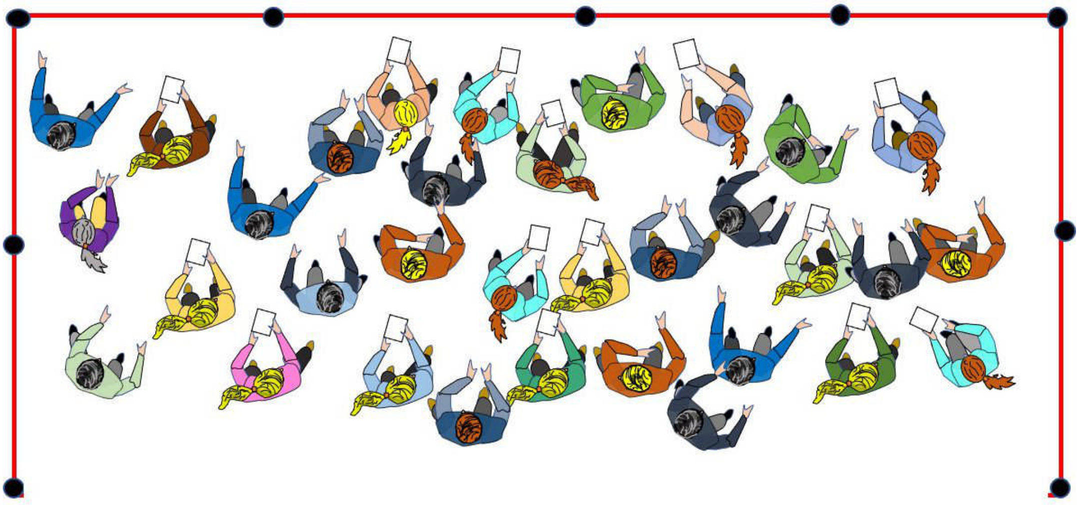


SPEECHES: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Spread Out to Cover Left and Right Sides

As the VIP nears the podium, the OIC should remain within arm's reach to ensure the VIP does not trip and reaches the speaking area smoothly. The Advance must increase speed and push past the VIP to provide protection on the far side of the podium. Both detail members must remain alert for threats while moving.

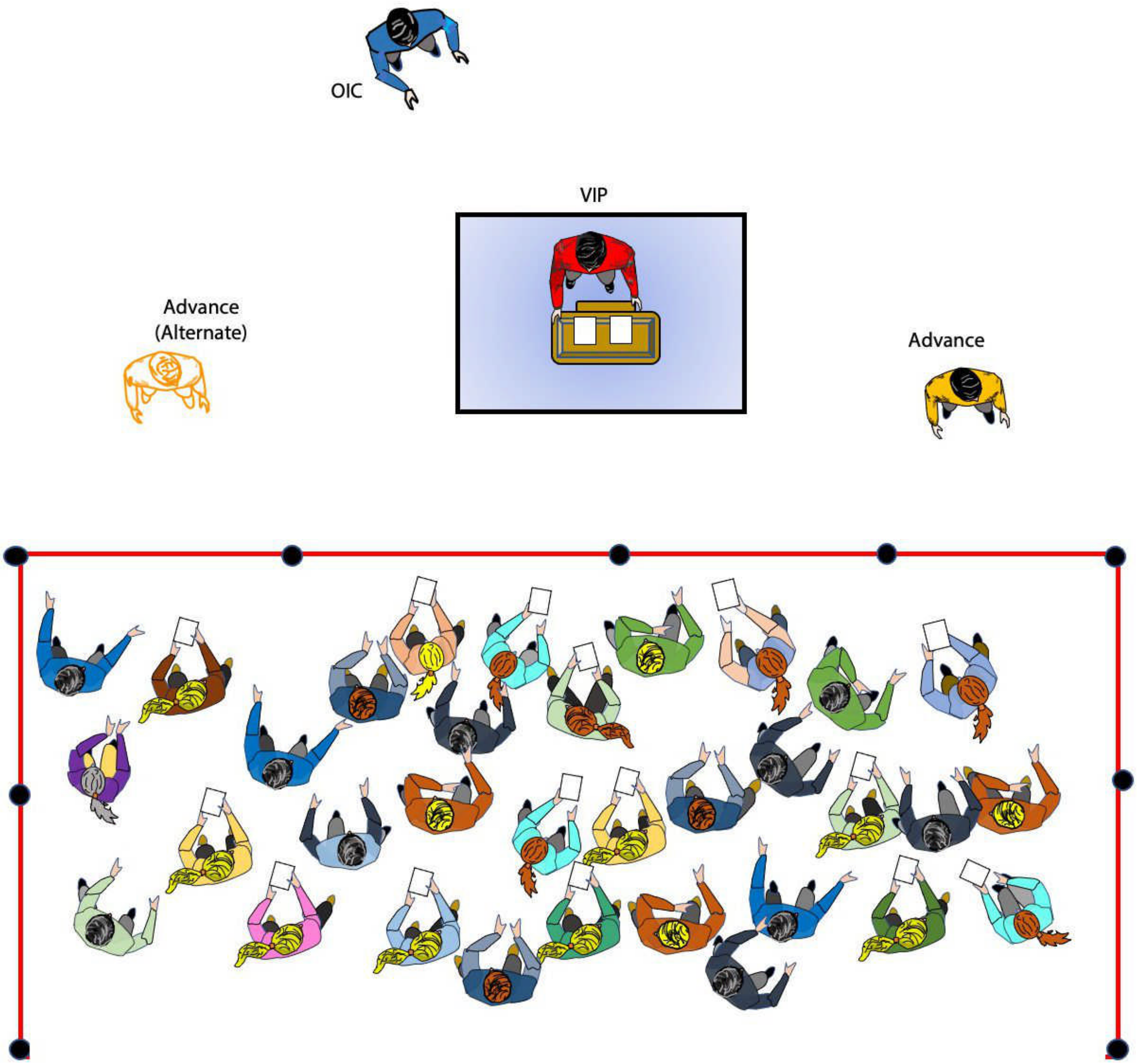




SPEECHES: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Assume Protective Positions

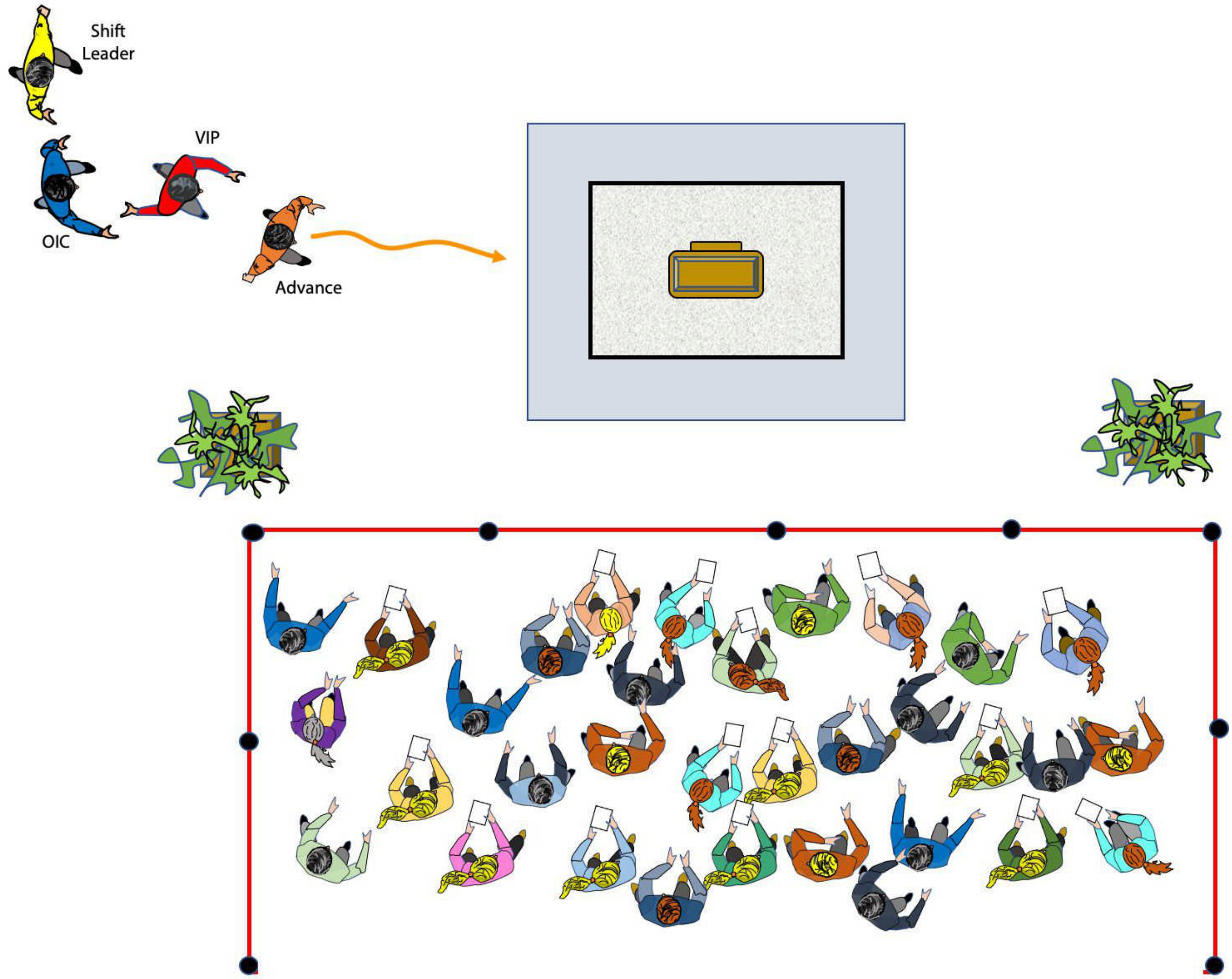
As the VIP reaches the podium, the detail members should move to their designated positions. The OIC will position behind and to one side of the VIP while the Advance positions in front to the opposite side, in a position to intercept attacks from the crowd. Both detail members must remain alert for threats and be prepared to adjust position if needed. Either detail member can choose to set up either on the right or left side depending on the situation.



SPEECHES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Move to the Podium in Formation

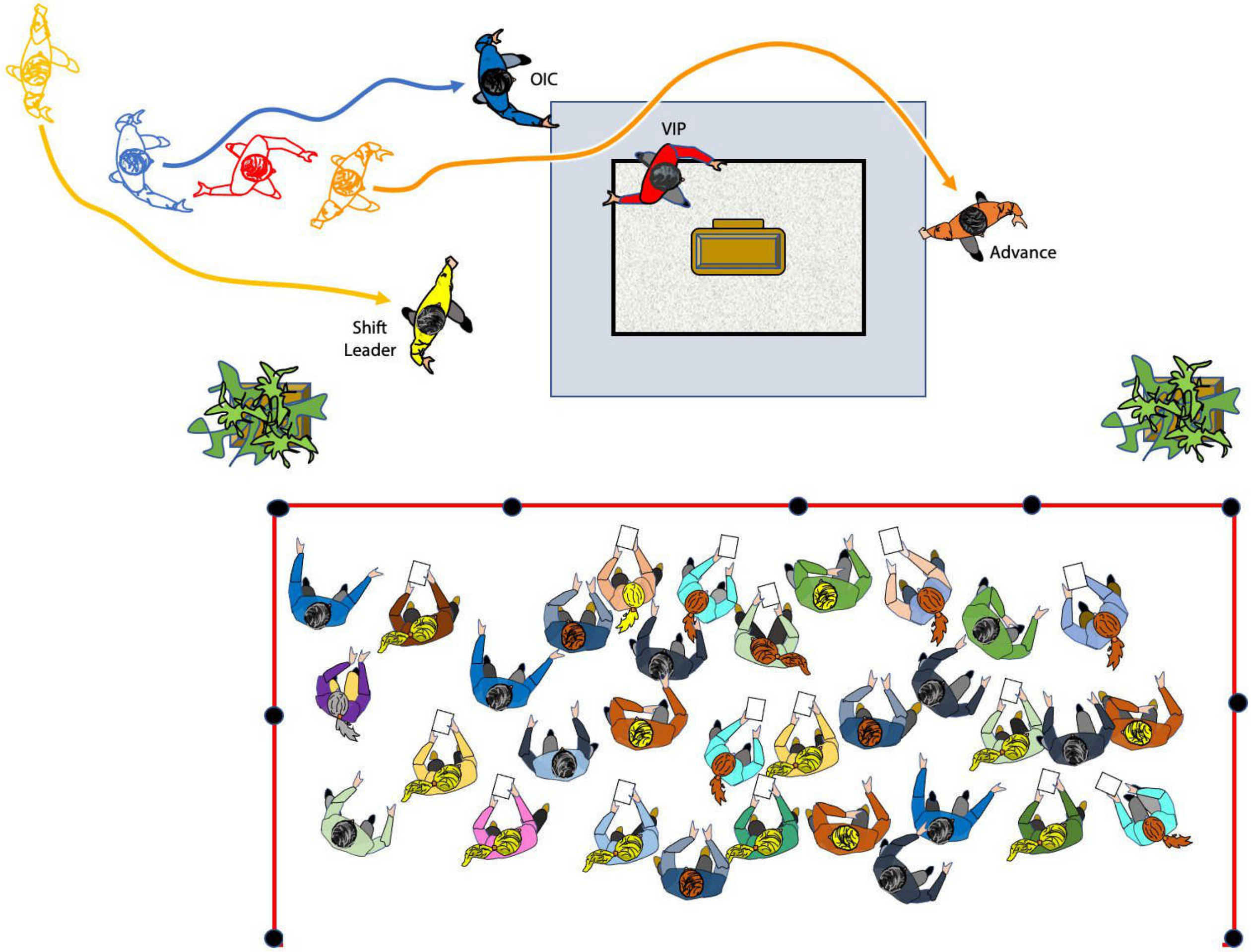
To escort the VIP to the podium, the detail will start by moving in its standard walking formation. Detail members will adjust position based on the situation and stay alert for potential threats from any direction.



SPEECHES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Spread Out to Cover Left, Right and Rear

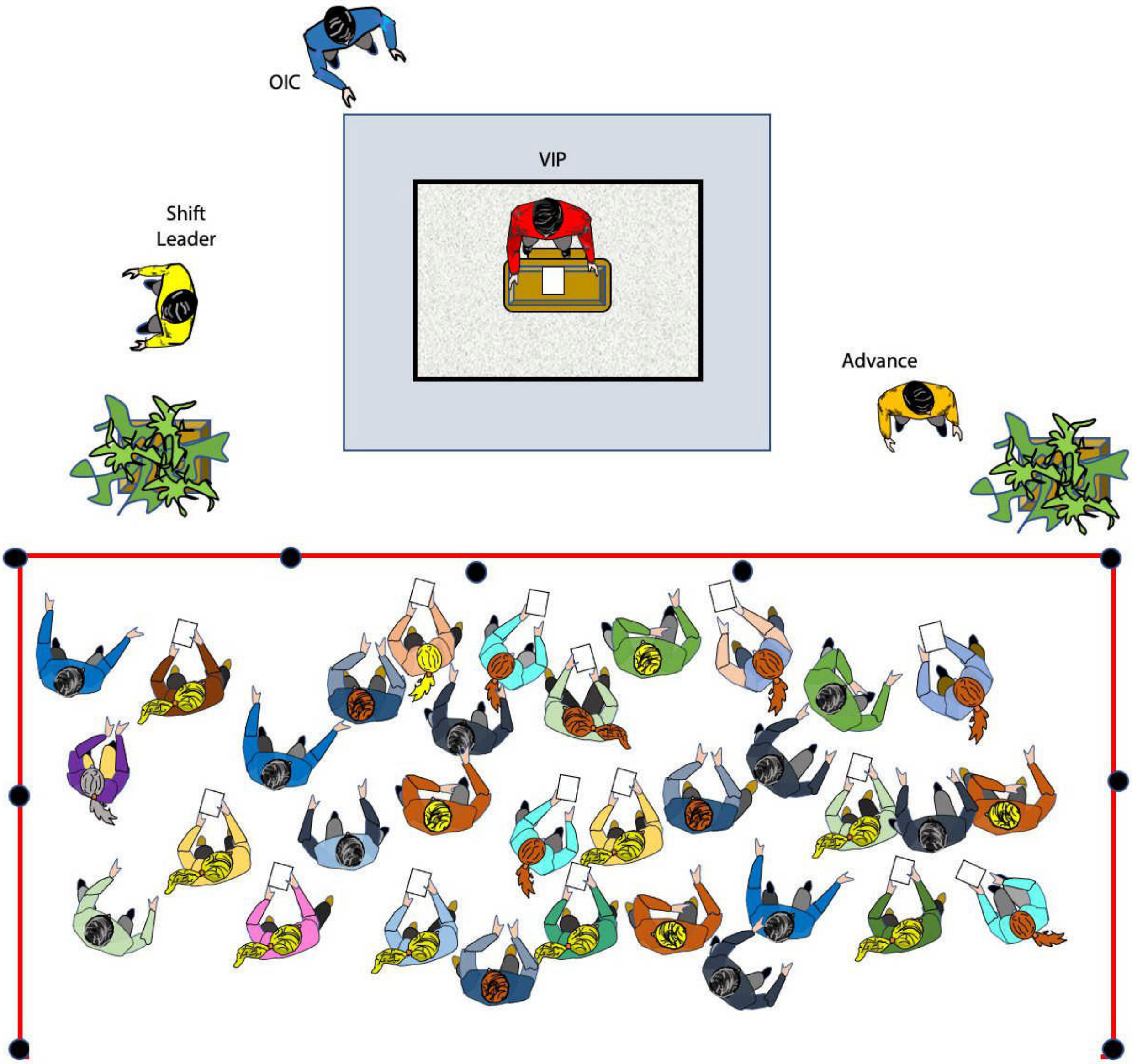
As the VIP nears the podium, the OIC should remain within arm's reach to ensure the VIP does not trip and reaches the speaking area smoothly. The Advance must increase speed and push past the VIP to provide protection on the far side of the podium. The SL will peel off towards the front of the podium. In this way all three detail members will begin to form a triangle around the VIP while remaining alert for threats while moving.



SPEECHES: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Assume Protective Positions

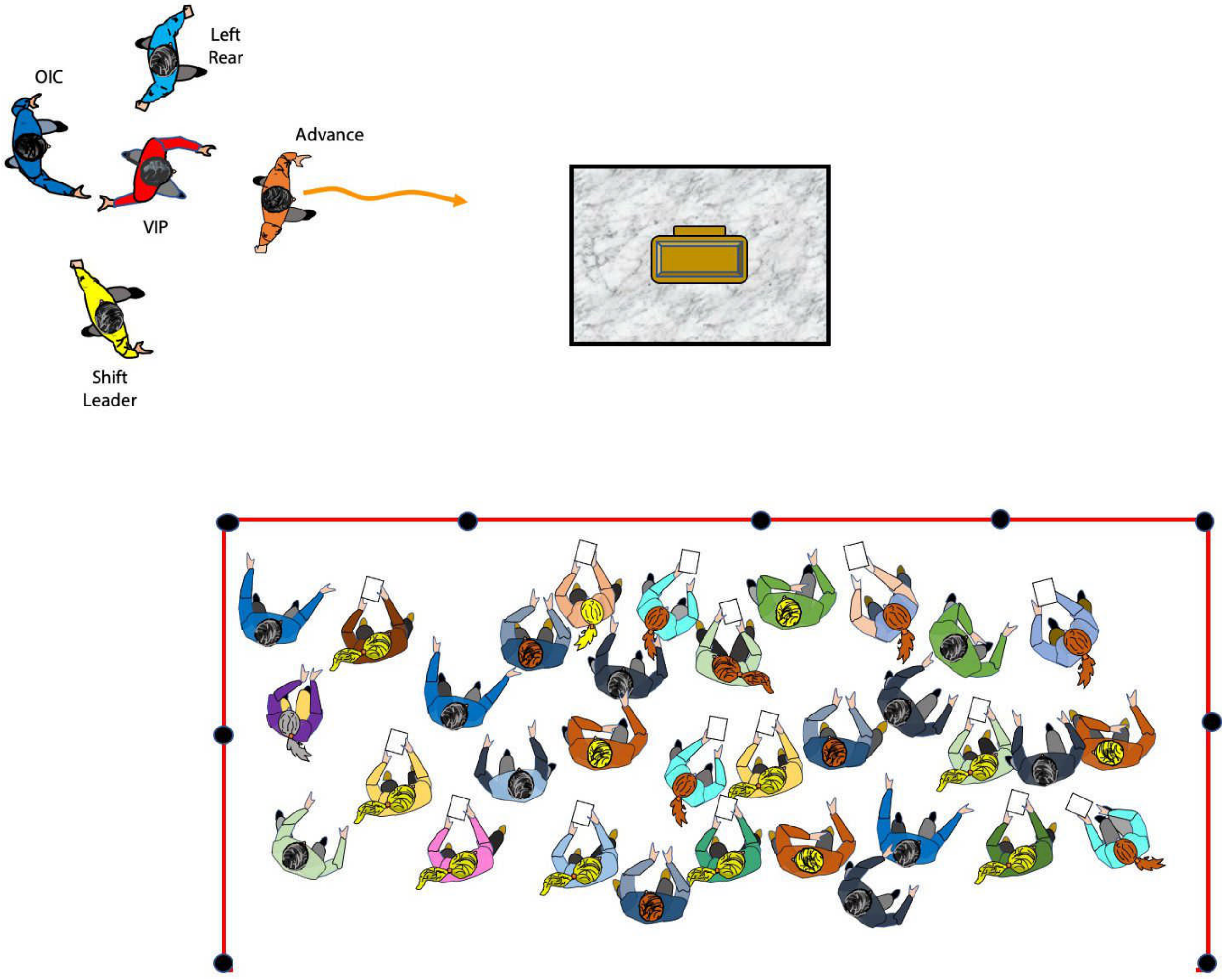
As the VIP reaches the podium, the detail members should move to their designated positions. The OIC will position behind and to one side of the VIP while the Advance positions in front to the opposite side, in a position to intercept attacks from the crowd. The SL will position to the front of the podium on the opposite side of the Advance. All detail members must remain alert for threats and be prepared to adjust position if needed.



SPEECHES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Move to the Podium in Formation

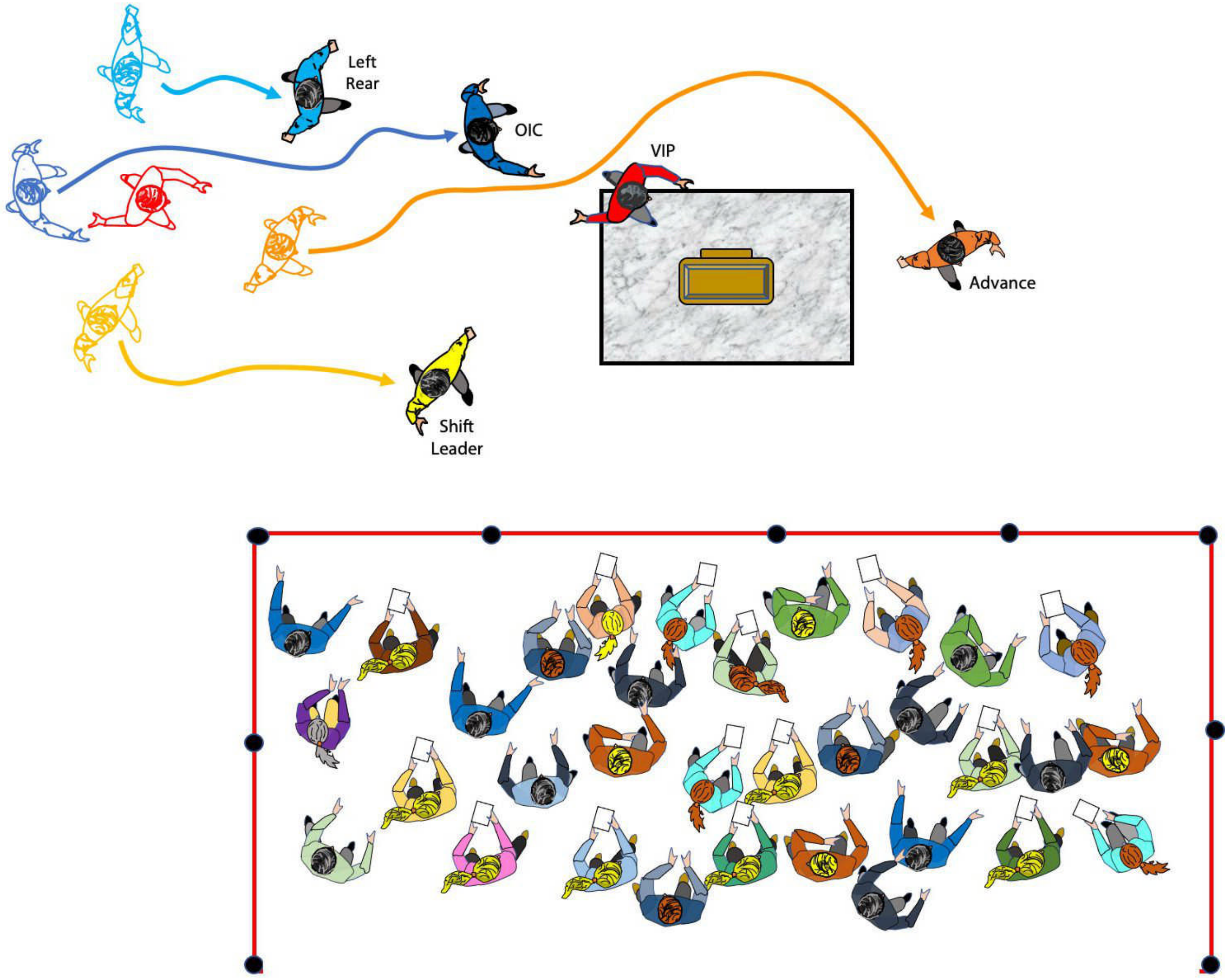
To escort the VIP to the podium, the detail will start by moving in its standard walking formation. Detail members will adjust position based on the situation and stay alert for potential threats from any direction.


Left Rear
OIC
Advance
VIP
Shift Leader

SPEECHES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Spread Out to Cover Left, Right and Rear

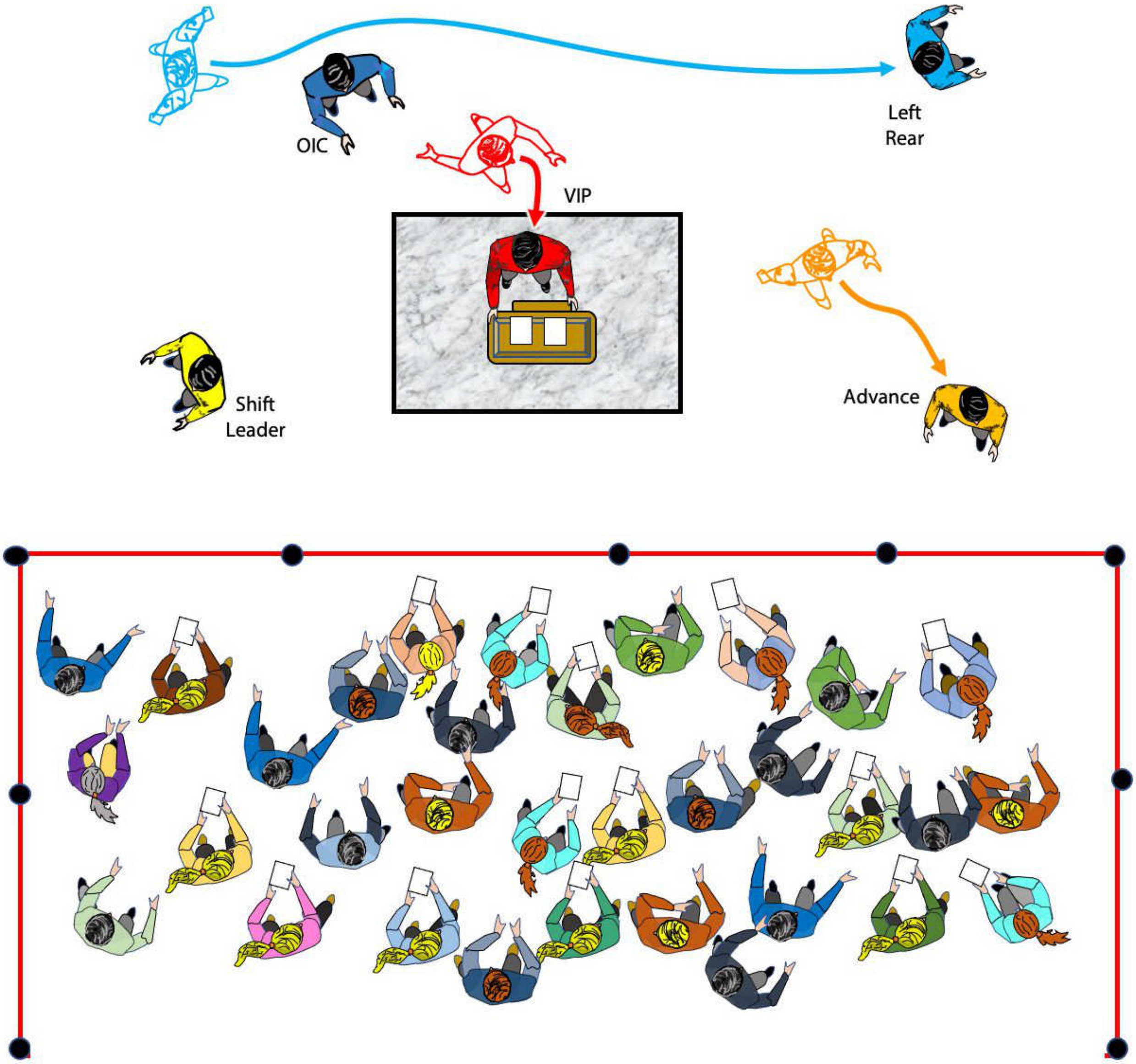
As the VIP nears the podium, the OIC should remain within arm's reach to ensure the VIP does not trip and reaches the speaking area smoothly. The Advance must increase speed and push past the VIP to provide protection on the far side of the podium. The SL will peel off towards the front of the podium.



SPEECHES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Left Rear Moves Into Position

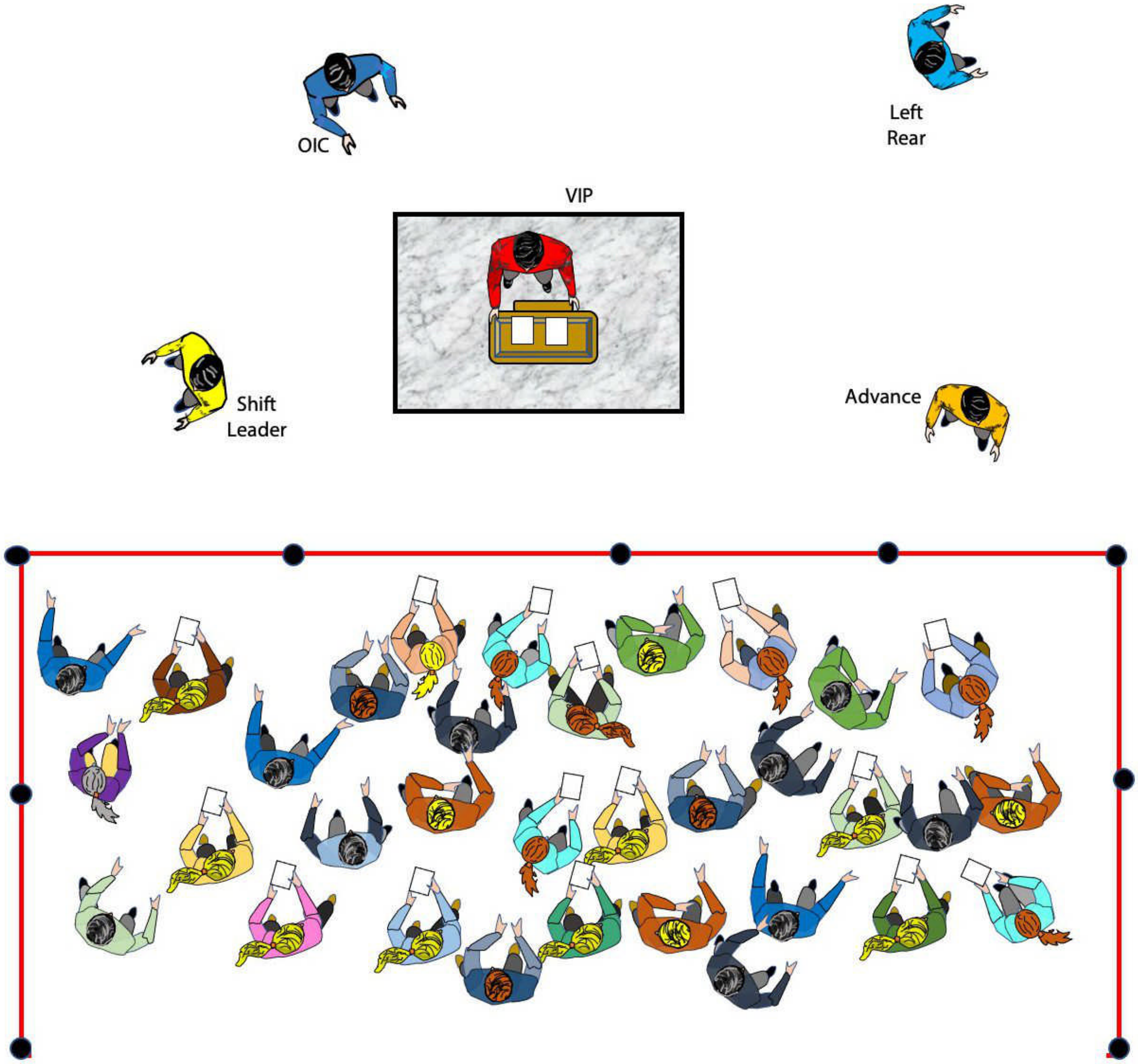
In this configuration with a four-person escort, the LR will probably have the farthest to move. The LR can either augment the rear security is in the diagram below, or can position to observe the audience/crowd.


OIC
Left Rear
VIP
Shift Leader
Advance

SPEECHES: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 4: Assume Protective Positions

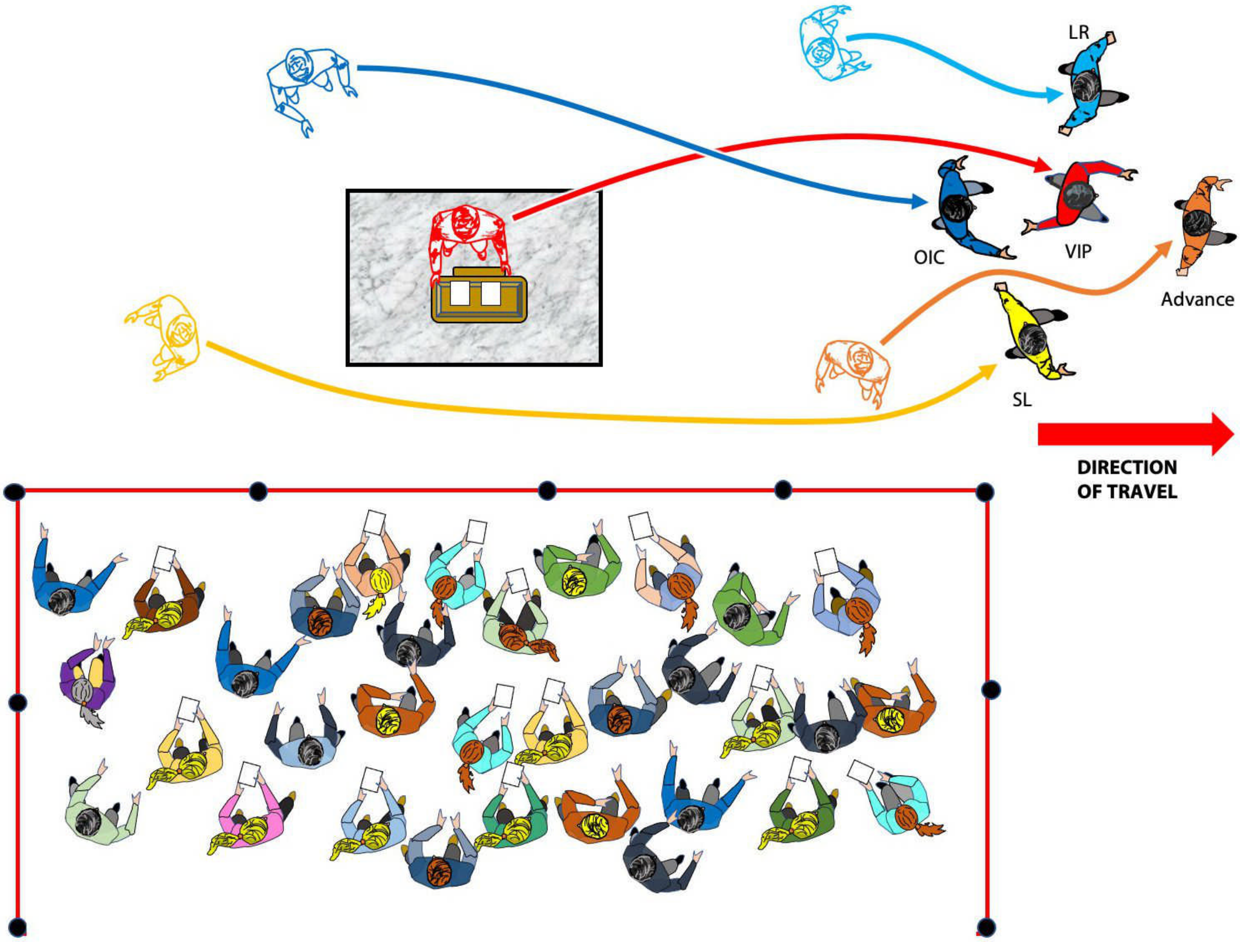
As the VIP reaches the podium, the detail members should move to their designated positions. The OIC will position behind and to one side of the VIP while the Advance positions in front to the opposite side, in a position to intercept attacks from the crowd. The SL will position to the front of the podium on the opposite side of the Advance. The LR will focus on rear security and position on the opposite side of the OIC. In some environments, the LR might want to move to a position to better observe the audience or crowd. All detail members must remain alert for threats and be prepared to adjust position if needed.



SPEECHES: DEPARTING THE STAGE

Collapse into Formation and Move Away

Leaving the podium is simpler than moving up to the podium and the general process remains somewhat consistent regardless of the size of your detail. When the VIP is ready to leave, the detail will collapse back into walking formation and move away from the podium. The detail must remain aware that some people might try to approach the VIP or shake hands as the VIP moves off the stage. There should be a plan for dealing with this or an established fence line where the VIP can shake hands with people in the audience.



SPECIAL EVENTS
Fence Line

Another common special event involves the VIP moving along a fence line, shaking hands with a welcoming crowd. While this type of event might seem easy to manage for a security detail, there are many things that can go wrong. The crowd along the fence line can be rowdy and disorderly. If people in the crowd are angry with the VIP, they may yell obscenities or throw things. If people in the crowd are fans of the VIP they may get overly excited and grab at the VIP across the fence. While all of this is going on, any person in the crowd could be preparing to execute a deadly attack. The security detail must be prepared to deal with all of these possibilities.

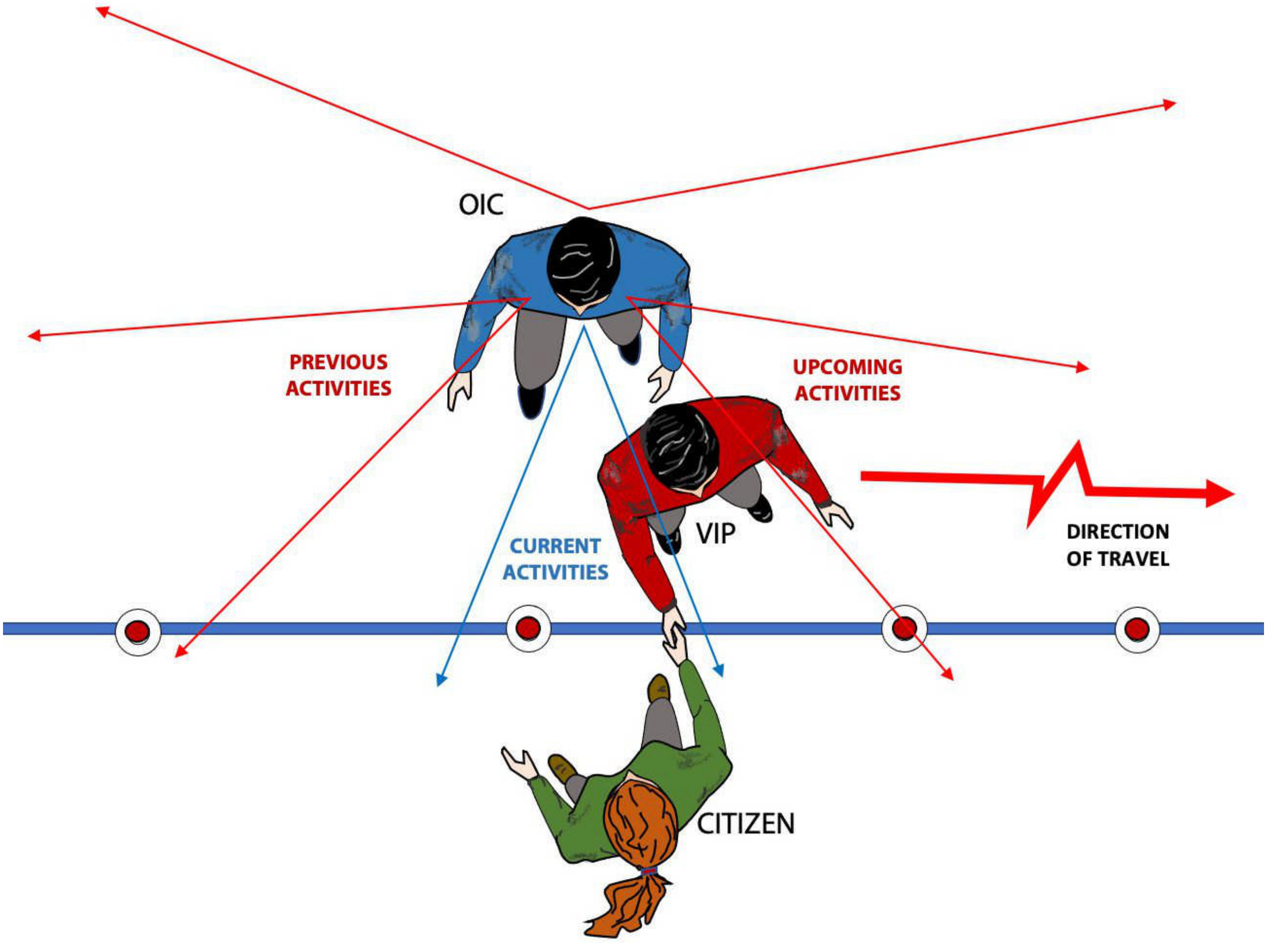
When moving along a fence line, the security detail's primary focus is on the crowd on the opposite side of the fence. When observing this crowd for threats, the detail must simultaneously remain aware of upcoming activities (people that the VIP is about to meet), current activities (people the VIP is engaging at the moment), and previous activities (people that the VIP has left behind). The detail must carefully observe mannerisms, body language and physical movements, looking for any sign that any of these people have hostile intentions. If there are enough detail members, it is also possible to embed a detail member among the crowd to observe the crowd from a less obvious position.

One of the most common problems the detail might encounter when moving along a fence line is encountering someone who shakes the VIP's hand but refuses to let go. In some cases this person might not be hostile but instead might be overly excited to meet the VIP and not acting rationally. In either case, it would be very bad publicity for the VIP if the security detail harmed this person or made a scene. Instead, if this occurs, the OIC should reach across and politely break the grip, then smile at the gripping crowd member as the VIP moves on. This is one example of how a protective detail might need to resolve an unexpected problem along a fence line. The formations and responsibilities outlined in the following section should offer a solid foundation for remaining alert for threats and dealing with other potential problems.

FENCE LINE: SINGLETON ESCORT

Singleton Formation

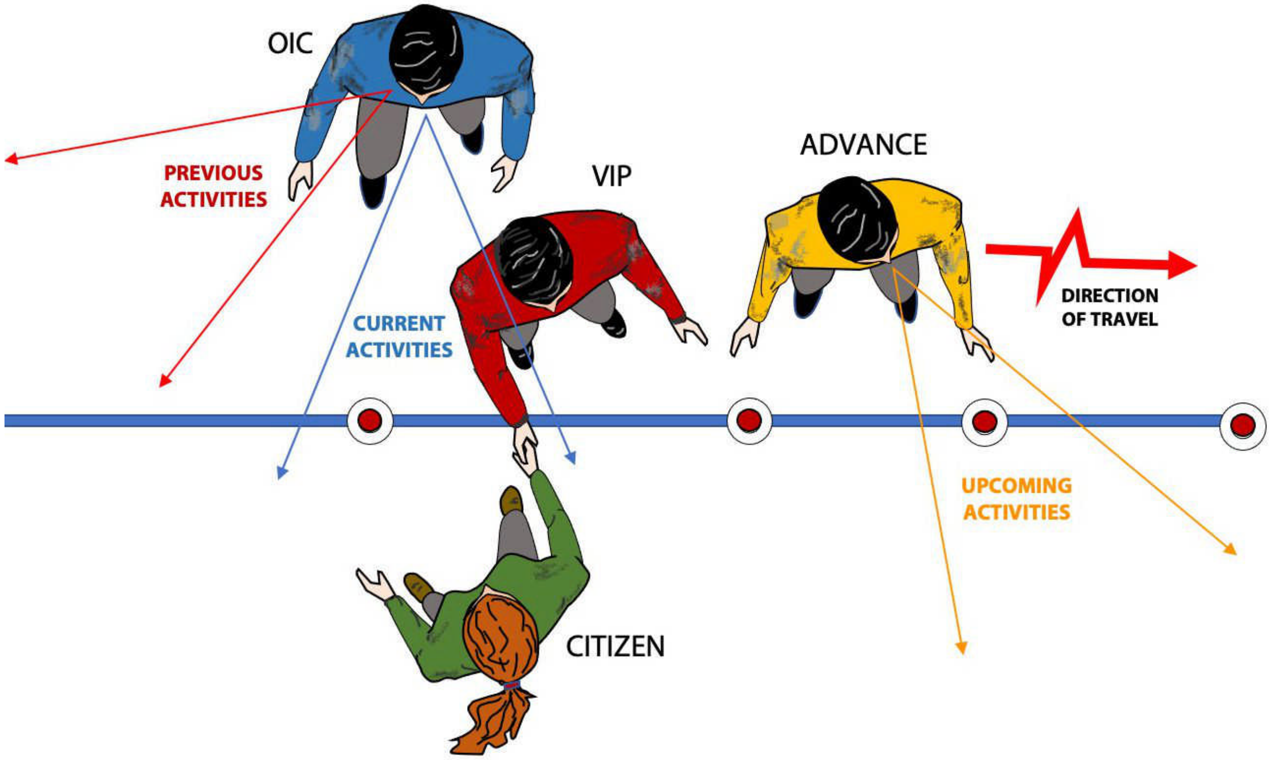
When operating as a singleton escort, the OIC will have the greatest challenge since he/she will have to remain alert for possible attacks from any direction. This is also the most dangerous scenario for the VIP. The OIC should position behind the VIP offset slightly opposite the direction of travel. The OIC must simultaneously remain aware of upcoming activities, or people that the VIP is about to meet, current activities or the people the VIP is engaging at the moment, and previous activities or the people that the VIP has left behind. Any of these people could initiate an attack or hostile action without warning. The OIC must also maintain some degree of rear security. In general, the OIC's main focus should be on current activities since they often present the greatest risk to the VIP.


OIC
PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
CURRENT ACTIVITIES
VIP
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
CITIZEN

FENCE LINE: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

Two-Person Formation

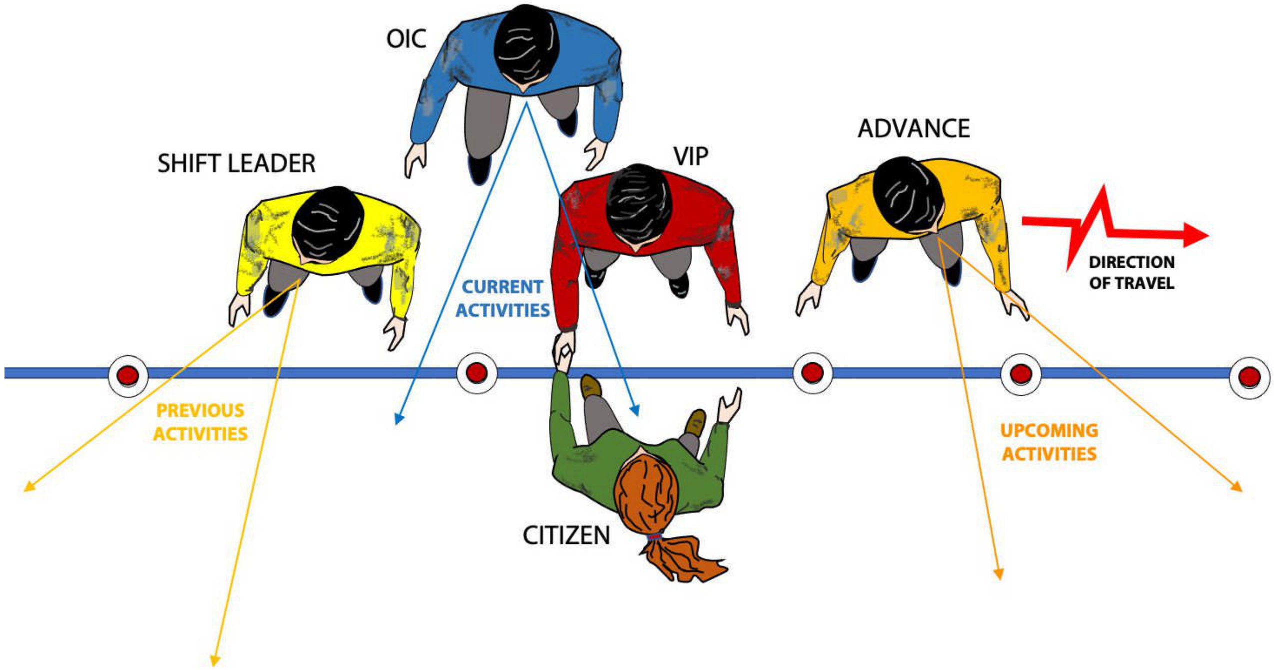
Adding an additional person to the detail will lessen the burden on the OIC and increase security for the VIP. In a two-person escort formation, the OIC will position in the same place as a singleton escort but the Advance will position ahead of the VIP in the direction of travel. The Advance will primarily focus on upcoming activities while the OIC focuses on current and previous activities. The advance must remain particularly alert for any indicators that someone waiting to meet the VIP might have hostile intentions.


OIC
PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES
VIP
ADVANCE
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
CURRENT ACTIVITIES
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
CITIZEN

FENCE LINE: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

Three-Person Formation

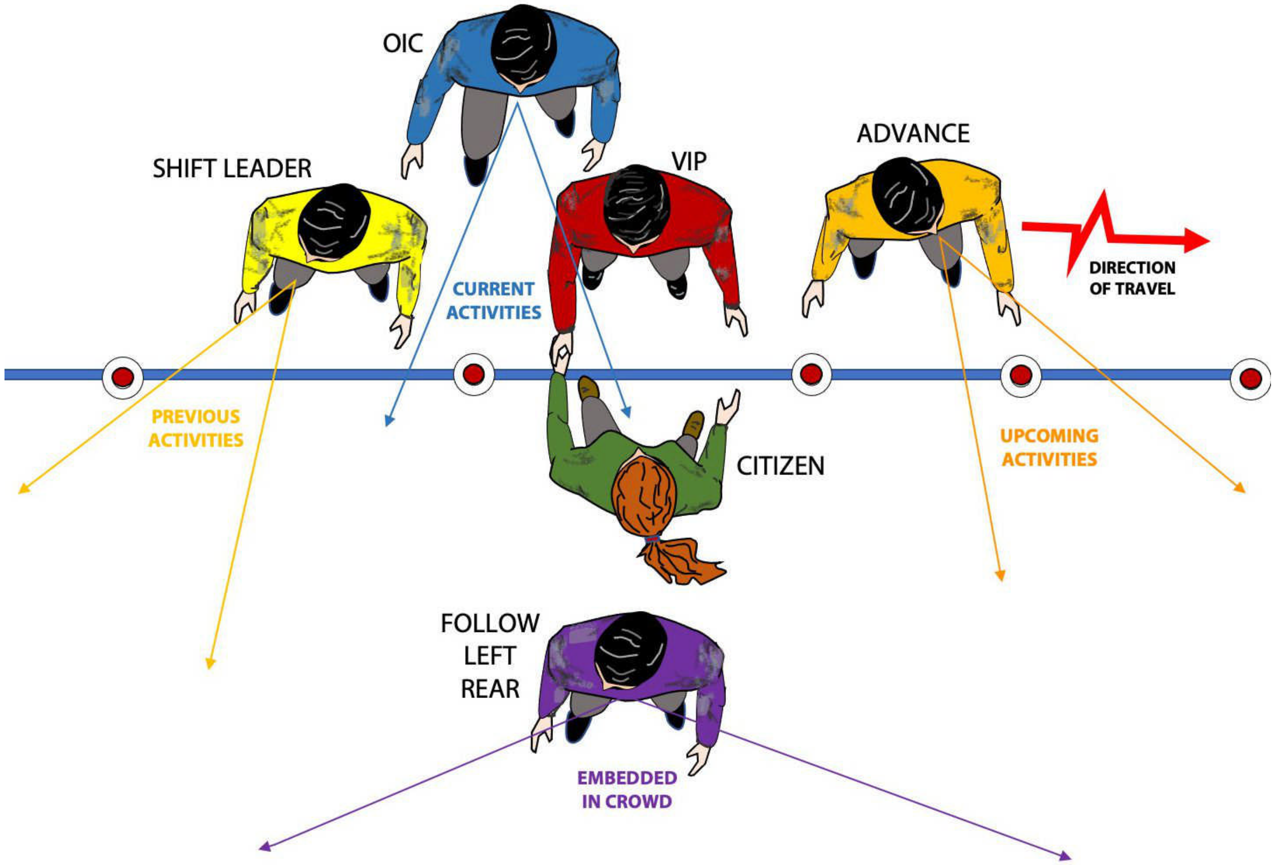
Adding a third member allows the Advance to focus on upcoming activities, the OIC to focus on current activities and the SL to focus on previous activities. This evenly distributes the workload across the detail and makes it much easier for each detail member to maintain situational awareness and focus on his/her responsibility. At least one or more detail member must also maintain rear security.


OIC
SHIFT LEADER
VIP
ADVANCE
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
CURRENT ACTIVITIES
PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
CITIZEN

FENCE LINE: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

Four-Person Formation

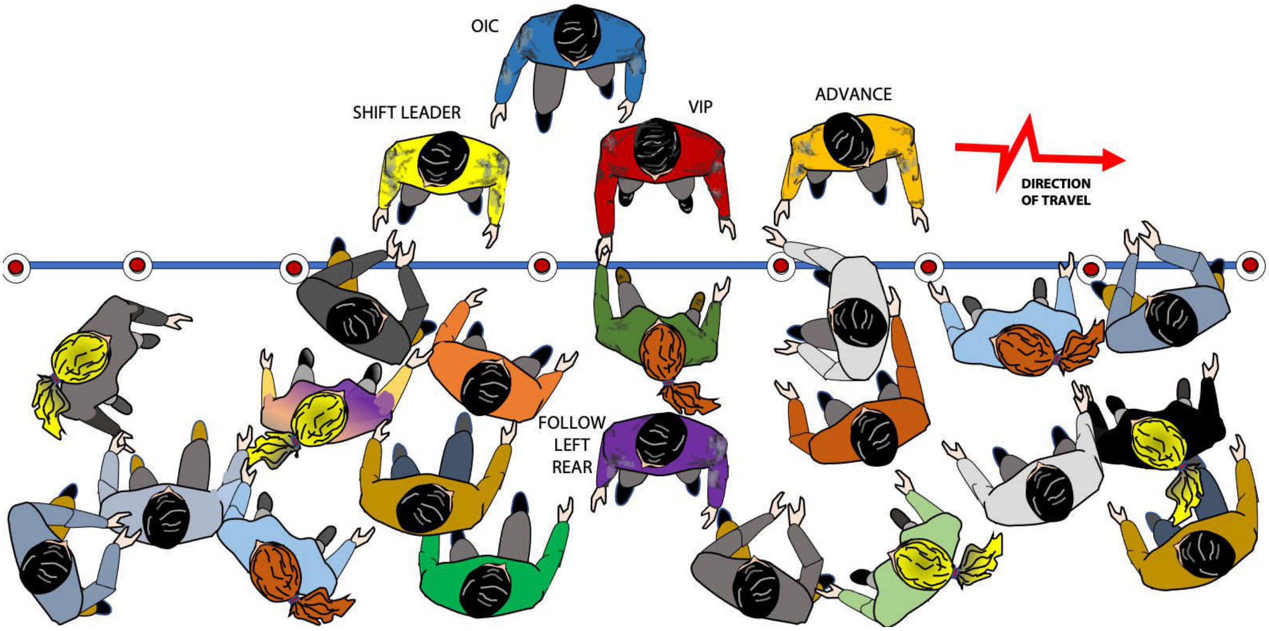
Adding a fourth detail member to the formation allows one detail member to embed in the crowd. Having this embedded detail member can prove particularly effective since the embedded detail member can catch people in the crowd who are preparing to execute a hostile action before they have a chance to do so. However, the embedded position is also the most dangerous so it is preferable for the most skillful and experienced detail member to take this position.


OIC
SHIFT LEADER
VIP
ADVANCE
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
CURRENT ACTIVITIES
PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES
CITIZEN
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
FOLLOW LEFT REAR
EMBEDDED IN CROWD

FENCE LINE: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

Four-Person Example with Crowd

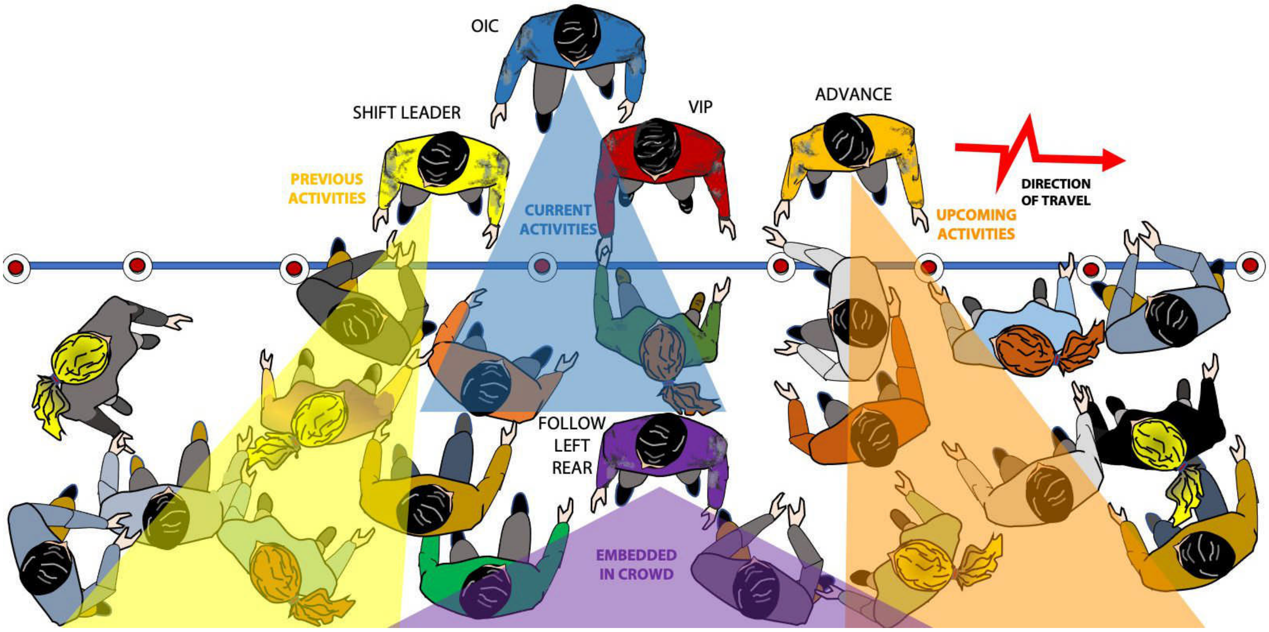
The diagram below shows the four-person formation as it might appear as the VIP moves along a fence line, shaking hands of people in the crowd. Note how it is easy to lose sight of the embedded detail member, even in this top-down illustration. People in the crowd will also often not see or notice the embedded detail member which can help the detail member catch people in the act of preparing a hostile action.


OIC
SHIFT LEADER
VIP
ADVANCE
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
FOLLOW LEFT REAR

FENCE LINE: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

Four-Person Example of Coverage Sectors

The shaded arcs below give a general depiction of the coverage sectors for each detail member. However, these sectors can change based on the situation or unexpected threats.


OIC
SHIFT LEADER
VIP
ADVANCE
DIRECTION OF TRAVEL
PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES
CURRENT ACTIVITIES
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
FOLLOW LEFT REAR
EMBEDDED IN CROWD

SPECIAL EVENTS
Attack Response

The previous sections discussed how to employ protective details of various sizes in several different types of special events. Another critical subject to cover is how to respond if the VIP comes under attack while attending a special event with a large crowd. To address this question, this section will use a somewhat generalized but common scenario of a VIP delivering a speech or making a public appearance in an outdoor environment. As already mentioned, there are many different types of special events that a VIP might attend and it would be impossible to cover every possibility in this book. However, the general concepts and tactics outlined in this section can apply to any special event including fence lines and indoor speaking events.

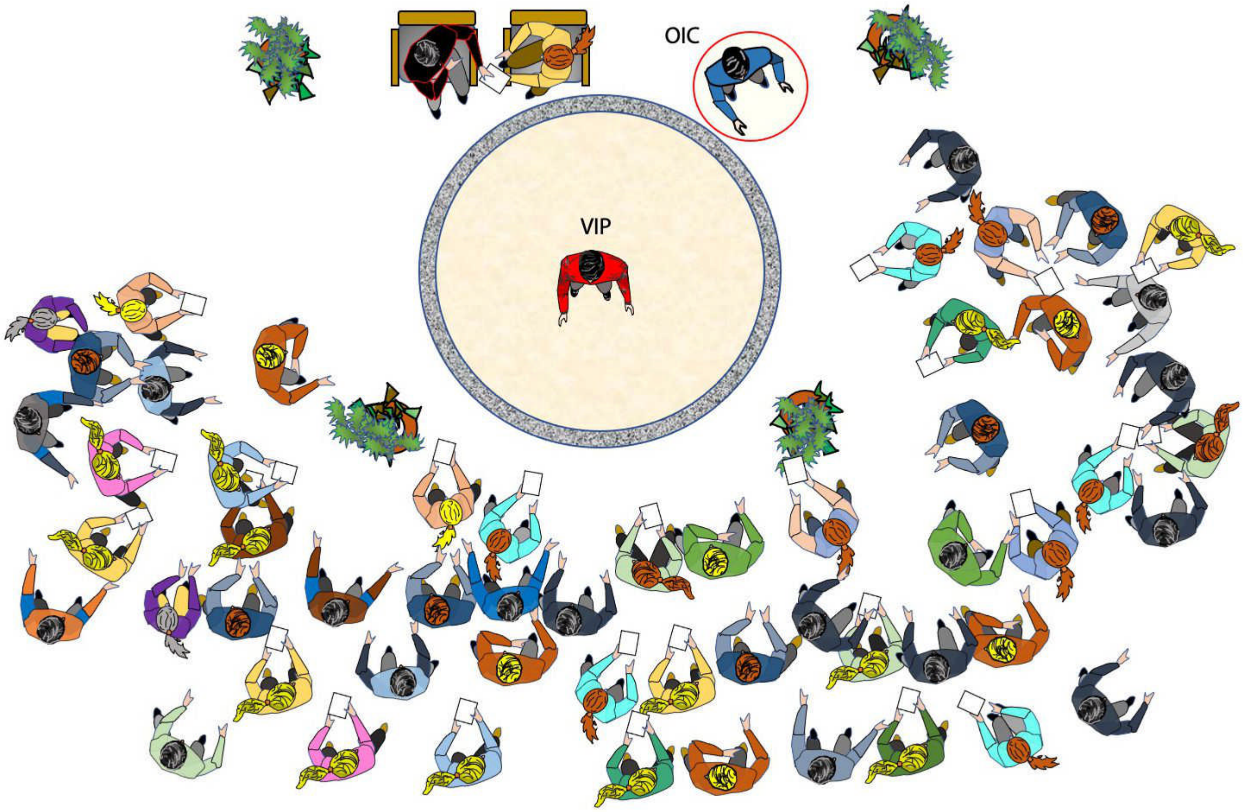
When protecting the VIP from a large crowd, the detail must carefully monitor the mood of the crowd to anticipate problems or incidents before they occur. Crowds that are hostile and crowds that are overly enthusiastic can both be problematic. A politician might get pelted with objects thrown by angry citizens. A popular celebrity might get mobbed by adoring fans seeking an autograph. Crowds tend towards extreme behavior, whether positive or negative. This can become more problematic when many of the people in the crowd are intoxicated or even under the influence of narcotics. A single rowdy individual can also ignite the emotions of other bystanders. The detail must keep all of these factors in mind when monitoring the crowd.

If the crowd grows unruly for whatever reason, the detail might have a short time window to respond and get the VIP to safety. Hence, it is very important for the OIC to brief the VIP on unruly crowd evacuation procedures before arriving at a special event. As with other protection techniques, timing and correct intercept angle are critical for getting to the VIP in time to prevent unwanted physical contact with the crowd. Detail members can use any combination of VIP control techniques, empty-hand defensive tactics and protective rings discussed earlier in this book to keep the VIP separated from the crowd. Once again, since special events are often well publicized, it is always important for the detail to use the appropriate level of force when dealing with potential threats.

EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 1: Monitor the Crowd

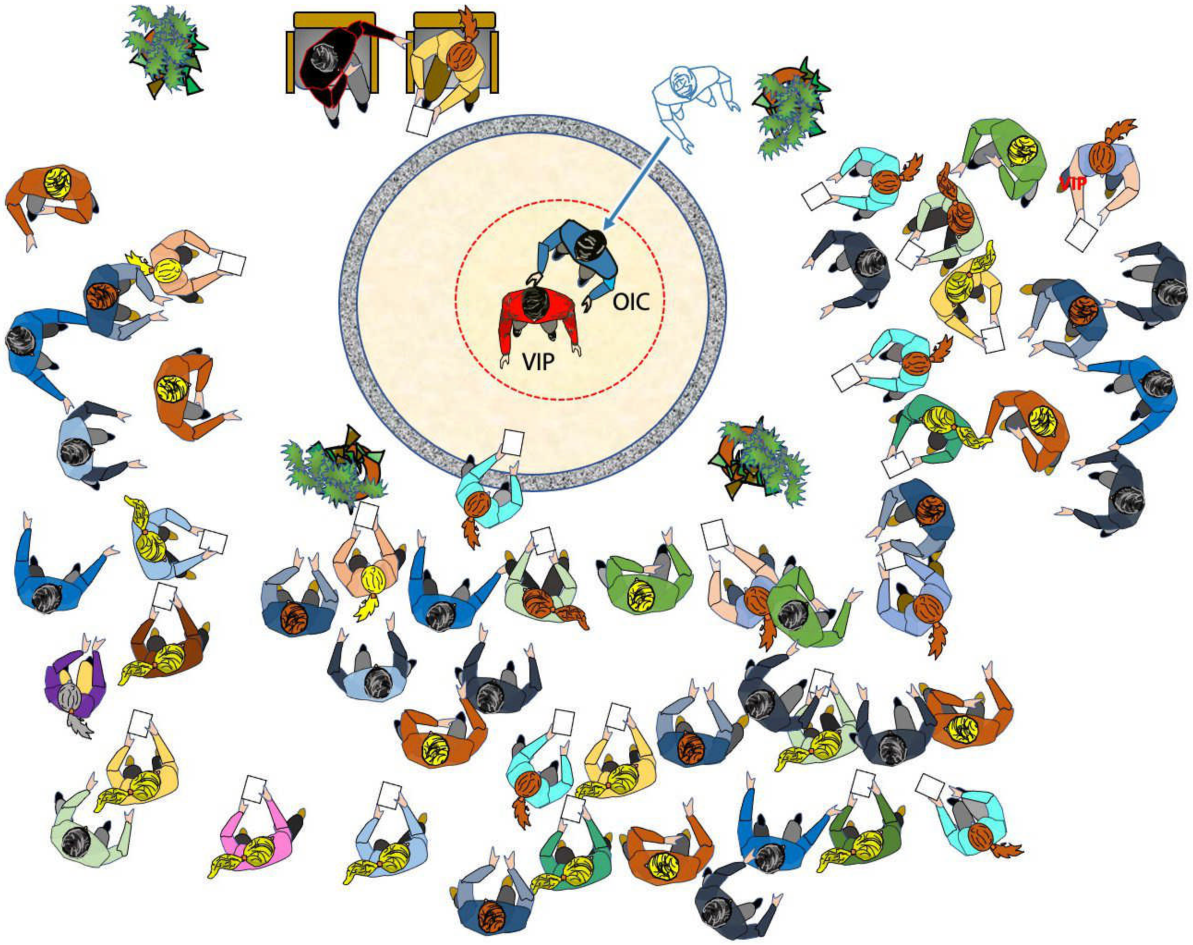
When employing a singleton detail, the OIC will generally position behind the VIP to one side. However, given the great challenge of having to protect the VIP from any attack angle, the OIC may have to adjust position based on the situation. The OIC must continuously monitor the mood of the crowd during the speaking event.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 2: Move to the VIP

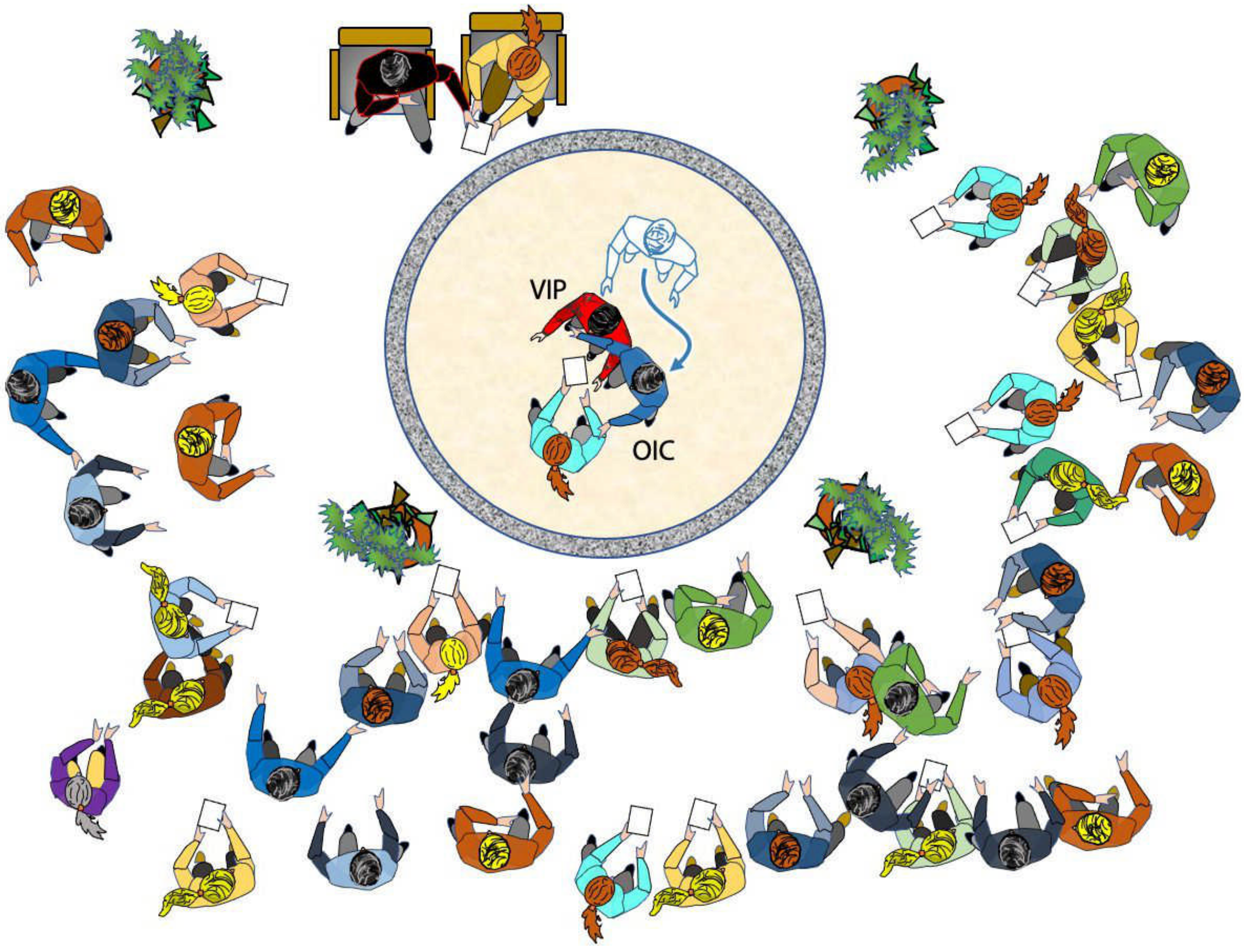
As soon as the OIC identifies someone within the crowd who is starting to get unruly or begins to move towards the VIP's extended security circle, the OIC will start closing the distance toward the VIP. Good timing and the proper intercept angle are essential to get to the VIP before an attack occurs.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 3: Intercept the Attack

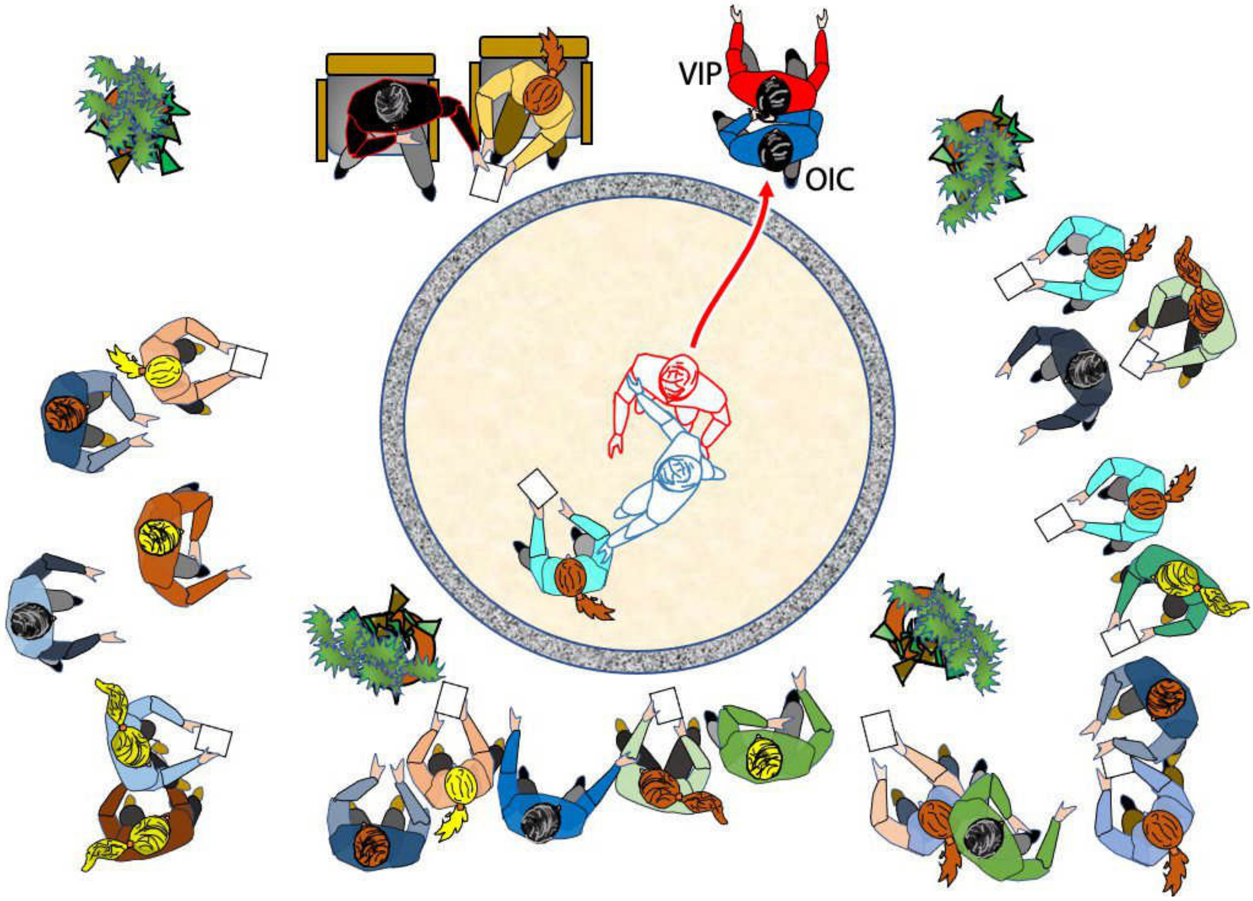
Upon reaching the VIP's location, the OIC will use any combination of VIP control techniques or empty-hand defensive tactics to protect the VIP and deal with the threat. The OIC must put himself/herself between the VIP and the threat and use appropriate force to resolve the situation.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: SINGLETON ESCORT

STEP 4: Evacuate the VIP

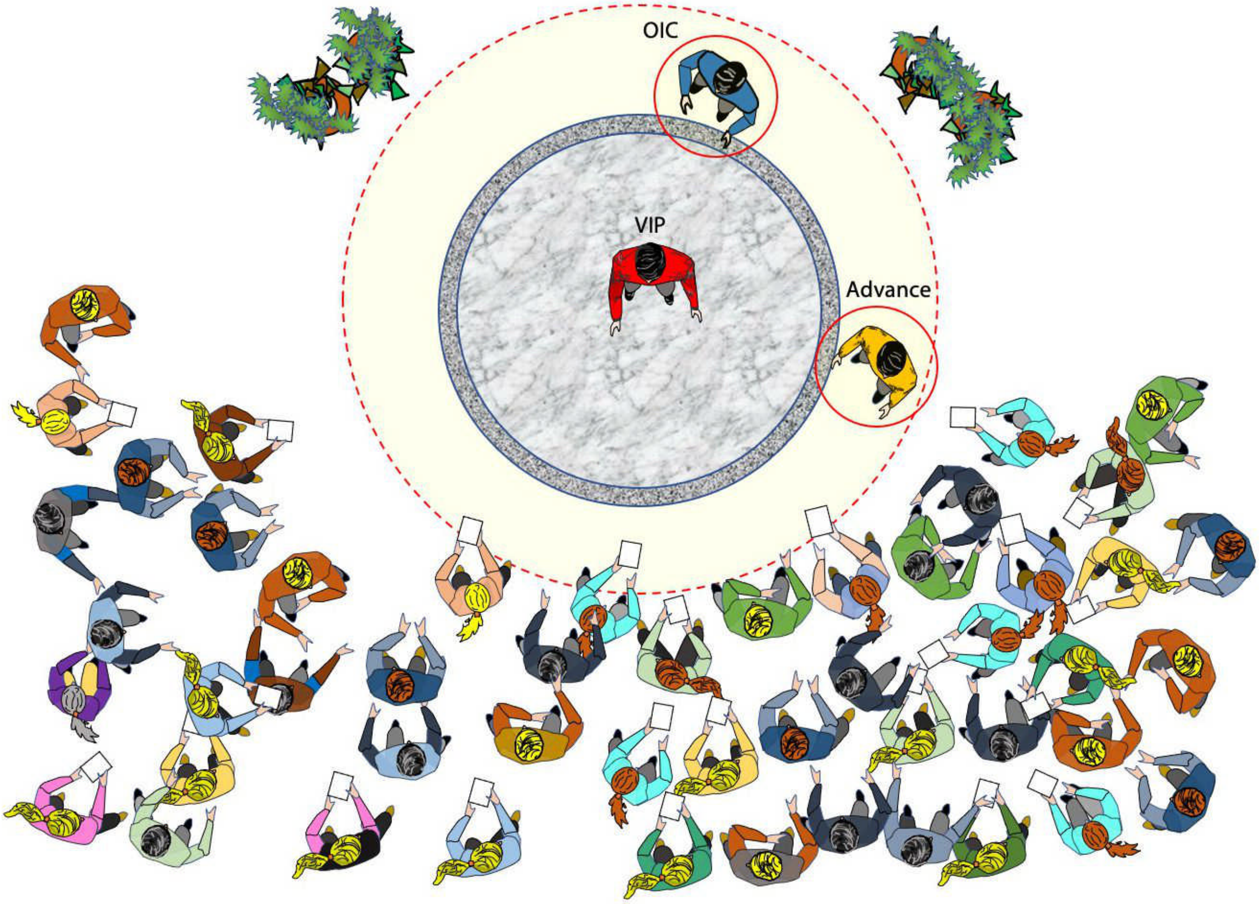
Once the threat is taken care of, the OIC will quickly evacuate the VIP away from danger to the nearest safe haven. Ideally, the OIC will have identified and continued to monitor pre-planned escape routes to ensure a safe evacuation.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Monitor the Crowd

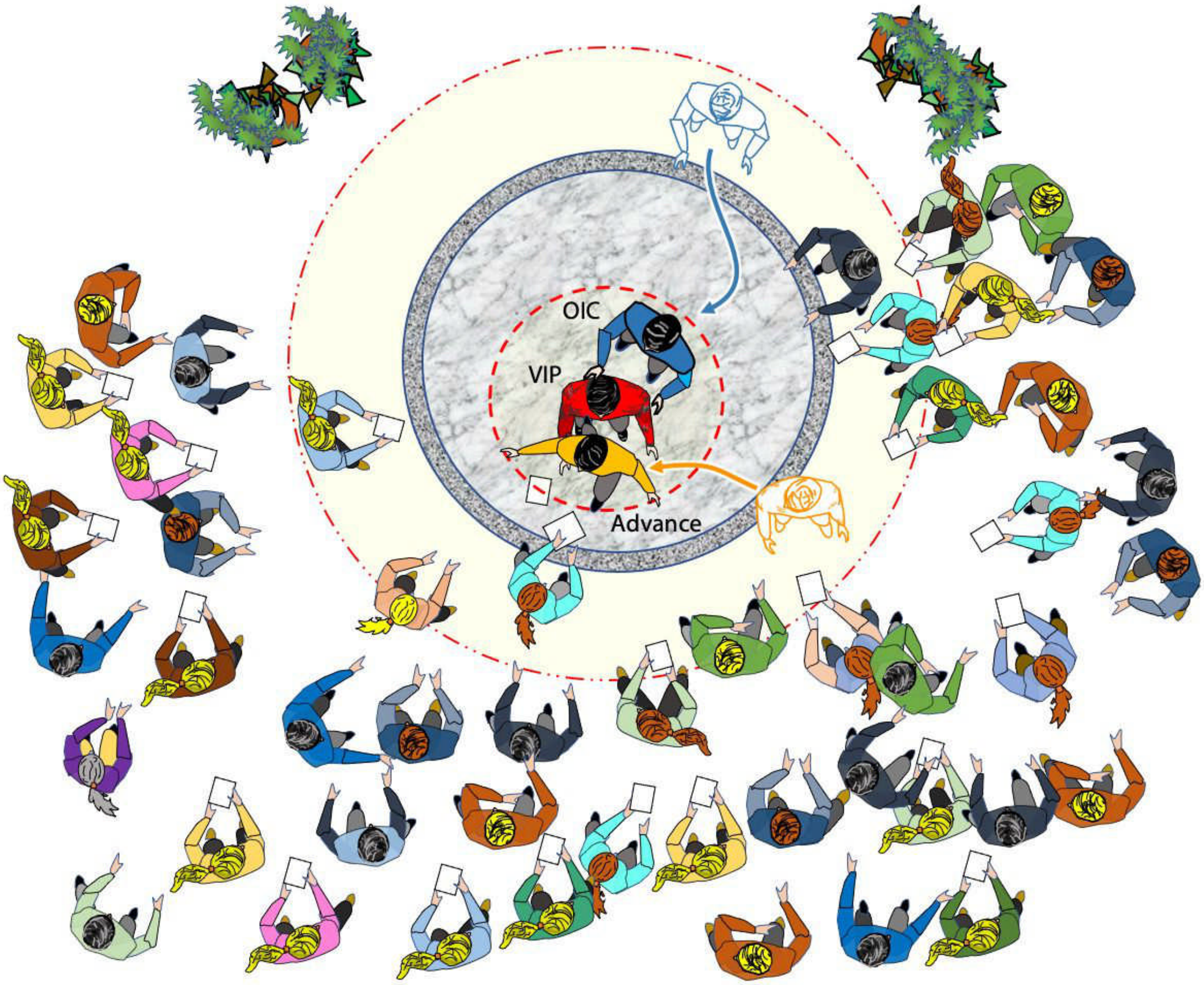
When employing a two-person detail, the OIC will generally position behind the VIP and the Advance will position to the front and side. Both detail members must adjust position to ensure they can reach the VIP in time and at the proper angle to intercept an attack. Both detail members must continuously monitor the mood of the crowd during the speaking event, looking for any sign of a potential problem or incident.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Form Protective Ring Around the VIP

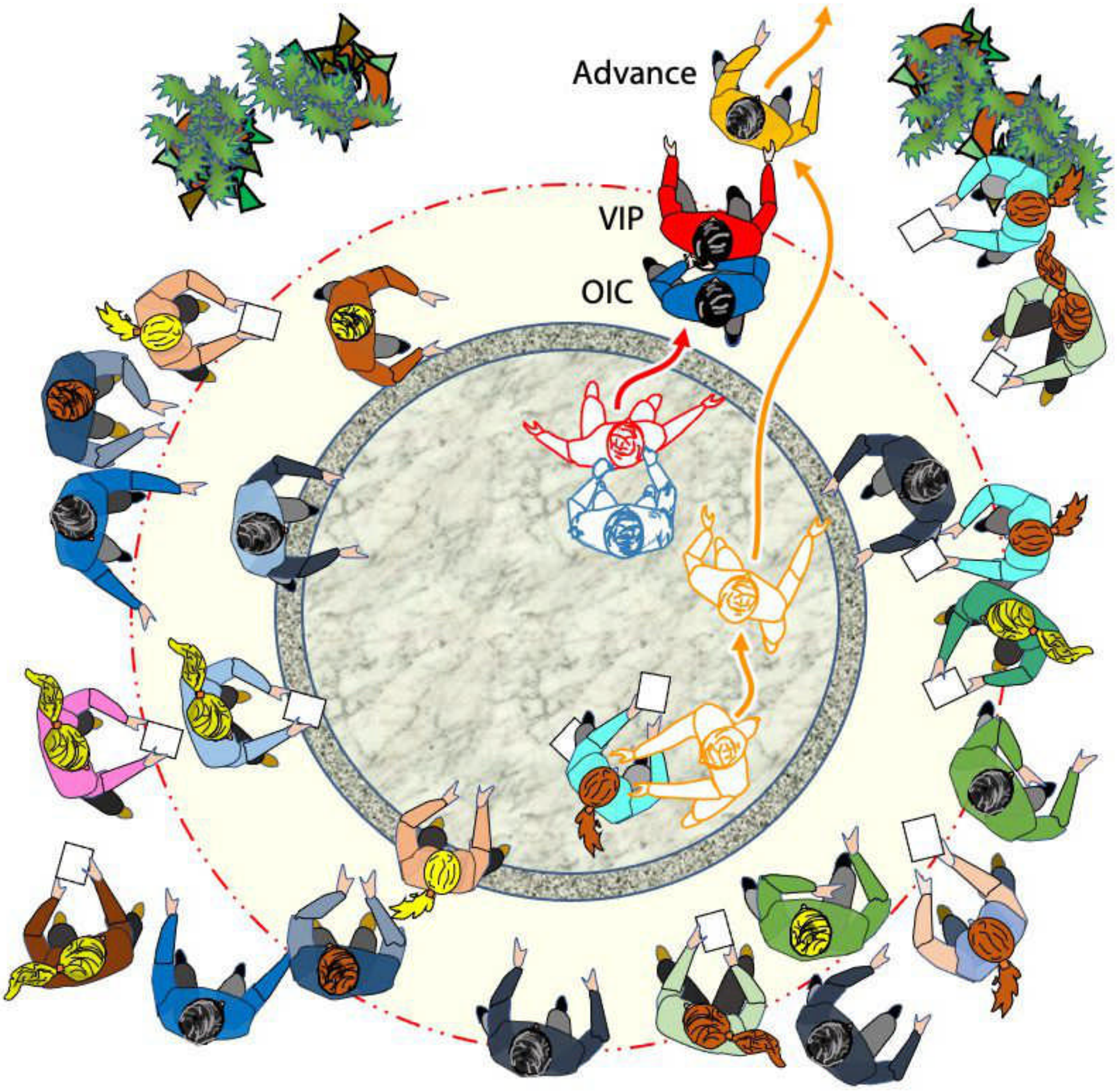
As soon as either detail member identifies someone within the crowd who is starting to get unruly or begins to move towards the VIP's extended security circle, both detail members will quickly move to the VIP and form a protective ring. Good timing and the proper intercept angle are essential to get to the VIP before an attack occurs.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: TWO-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Evacuate the VIP

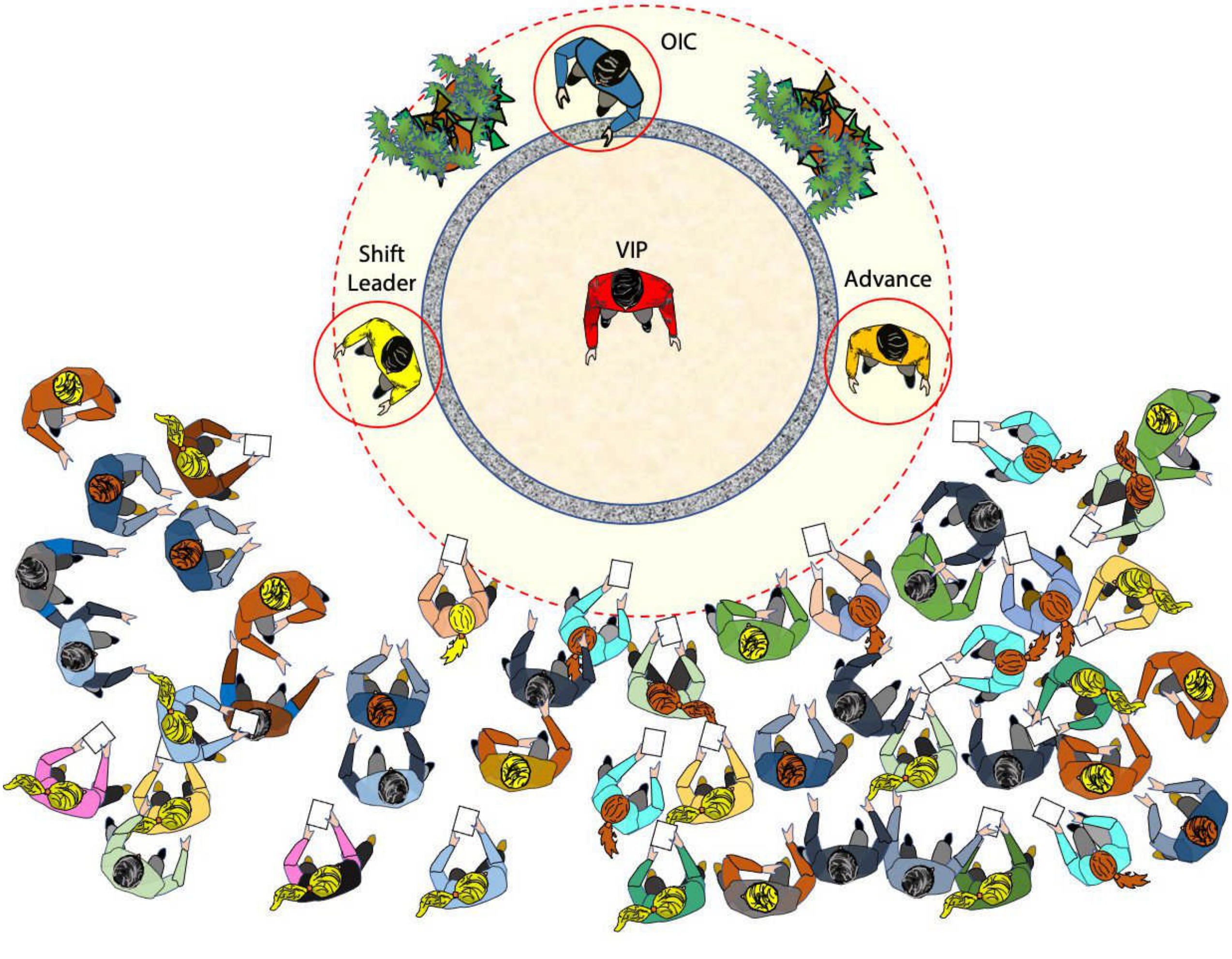
Once the threat is taken care of and the VIP is shielded, the detail will quickly evacuate the VIP away from danger to the nearest safe haven. It is critical for the detail to break contact and not get decisively engaged with any of the attackers unless it is absolutely necessary. Ideally, the Advance will have identified and continued to monitor pre-planned escape routes to ensure a safe evacuation. The Advance will lead the VIP and detail to safety while the OIC controls the VIP.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Monitor the Crowd

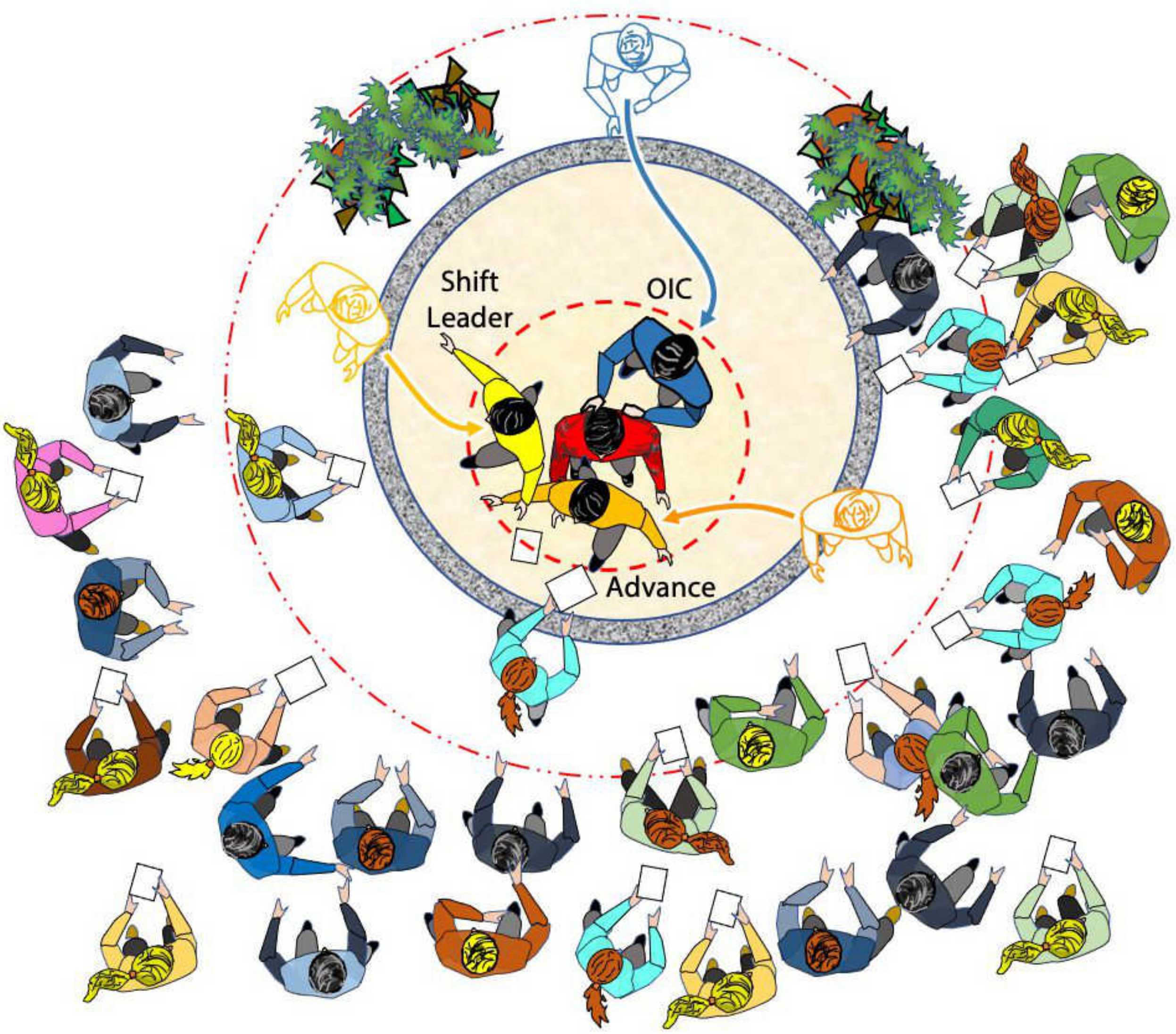
When employing a three-person detail, the OIC will generally position behind the VIP while the Advance and SL will position on either side to the front. All detail members must adjust position to ensure they can reach the VIP in time and at the proper angle to intercept an attack. All detail members must continuously monitor the mood of the crowd during the speaking event, looking for any sign of a potential problem or incident.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Form Protective Ring Around the VIP

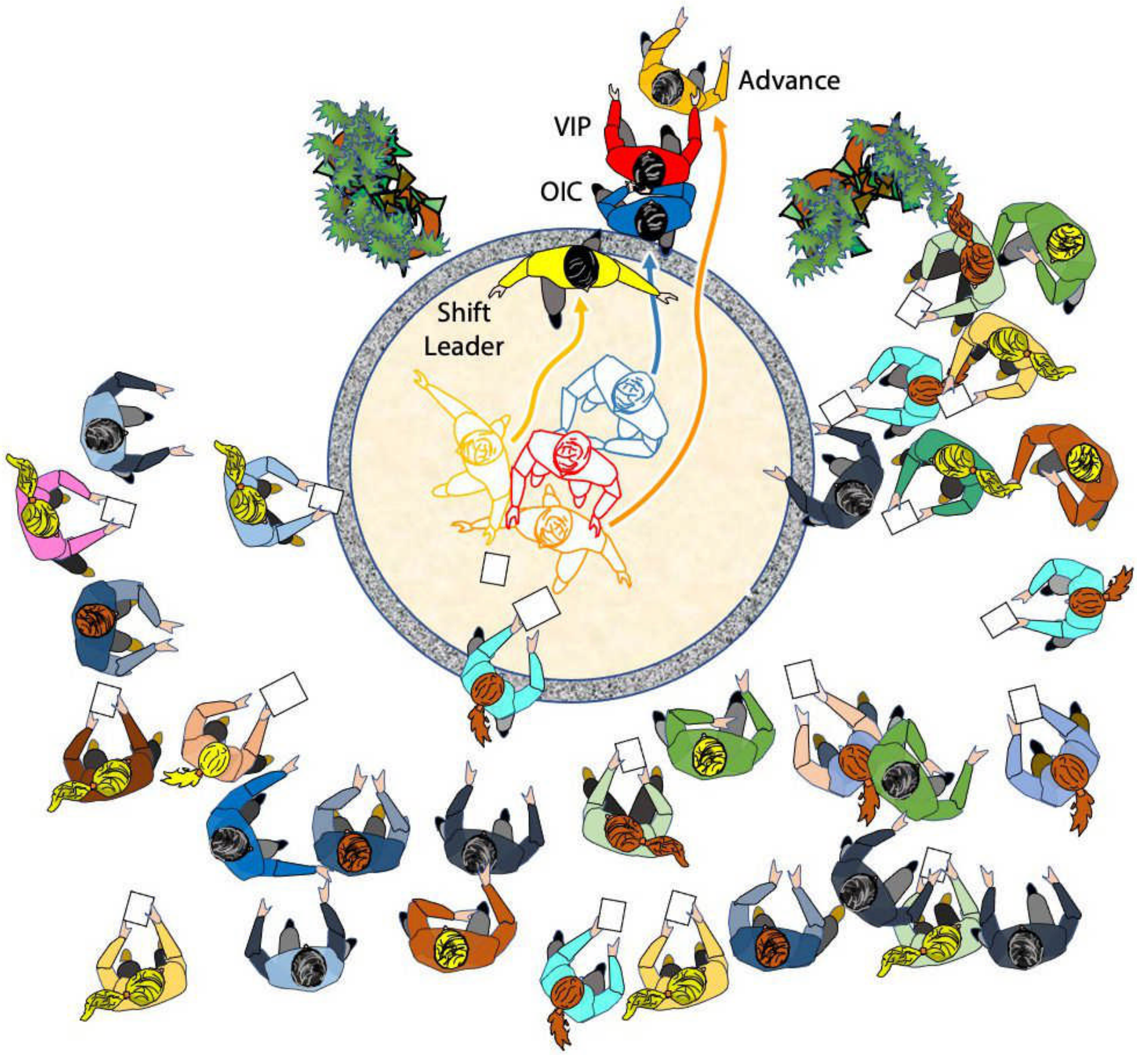
As soon as any detail member identifies someone within the crowd who is starting to get unruly or begins to move towards the VIP's extended security circle, all detail members will quickly move to the VIP and form a protective ring. Good timing and the proper intercept angle are essential to get to the VIP before an attack occurs.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: THREE-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Evacuate the VIP

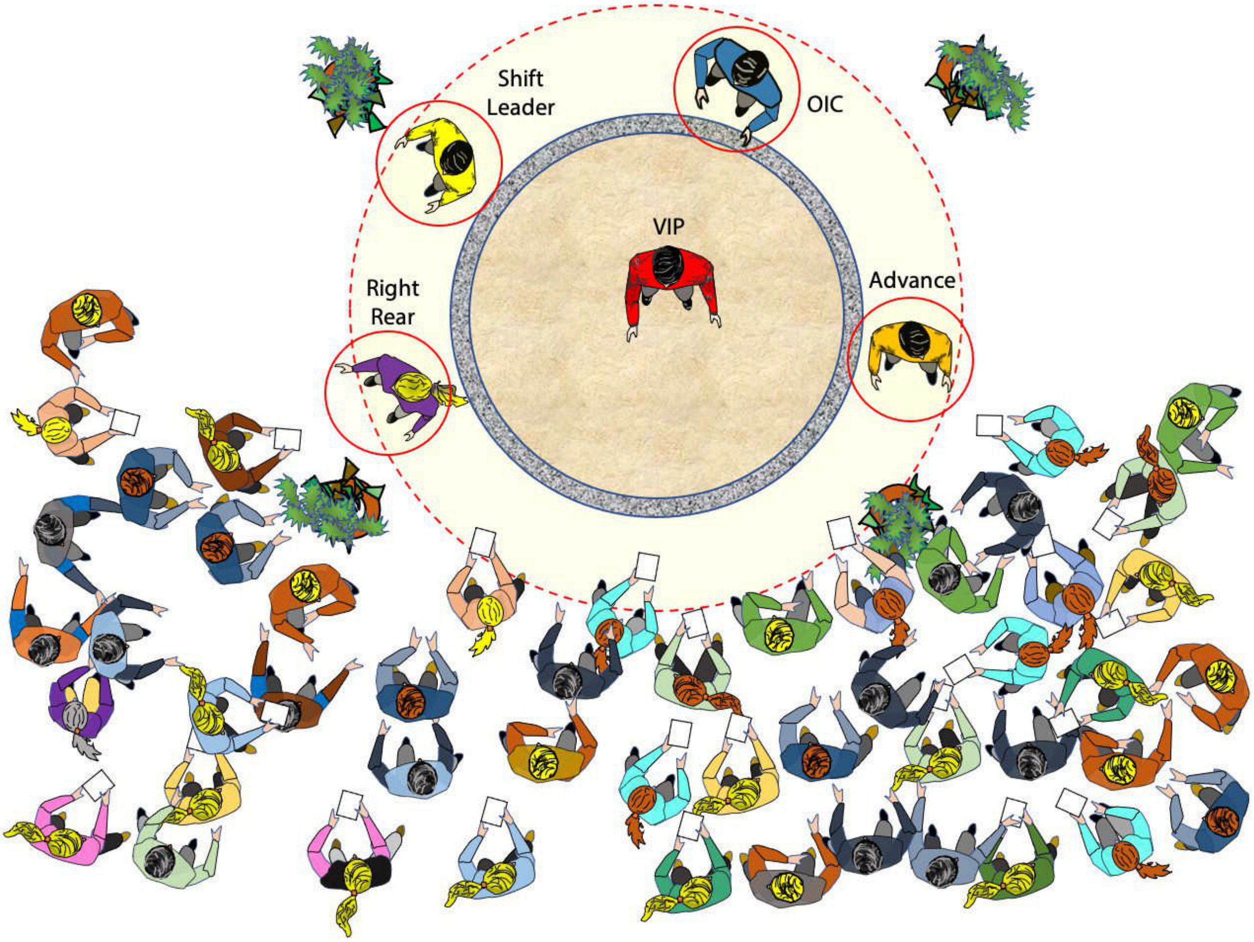
Once the threat is taken care of and the VIP is shielded, the detail will quickly evacuate the VIP away from danger to the nearest safe haven. It is critical for the detail to break contact and not get decisively engaged with any of the attackers unless it is absolutely necessary. Ideally, the Advance will have identified and continued to monitor pre-planned escape routes to ensure a safe evacuation. The Advance will lead the VIP and detail to safety while the OIC controls the VIP. In most cases it will be helpful for the SL to focus on rear security, preventing attackers from pursuing the detail.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 1: Monitor the Crowd

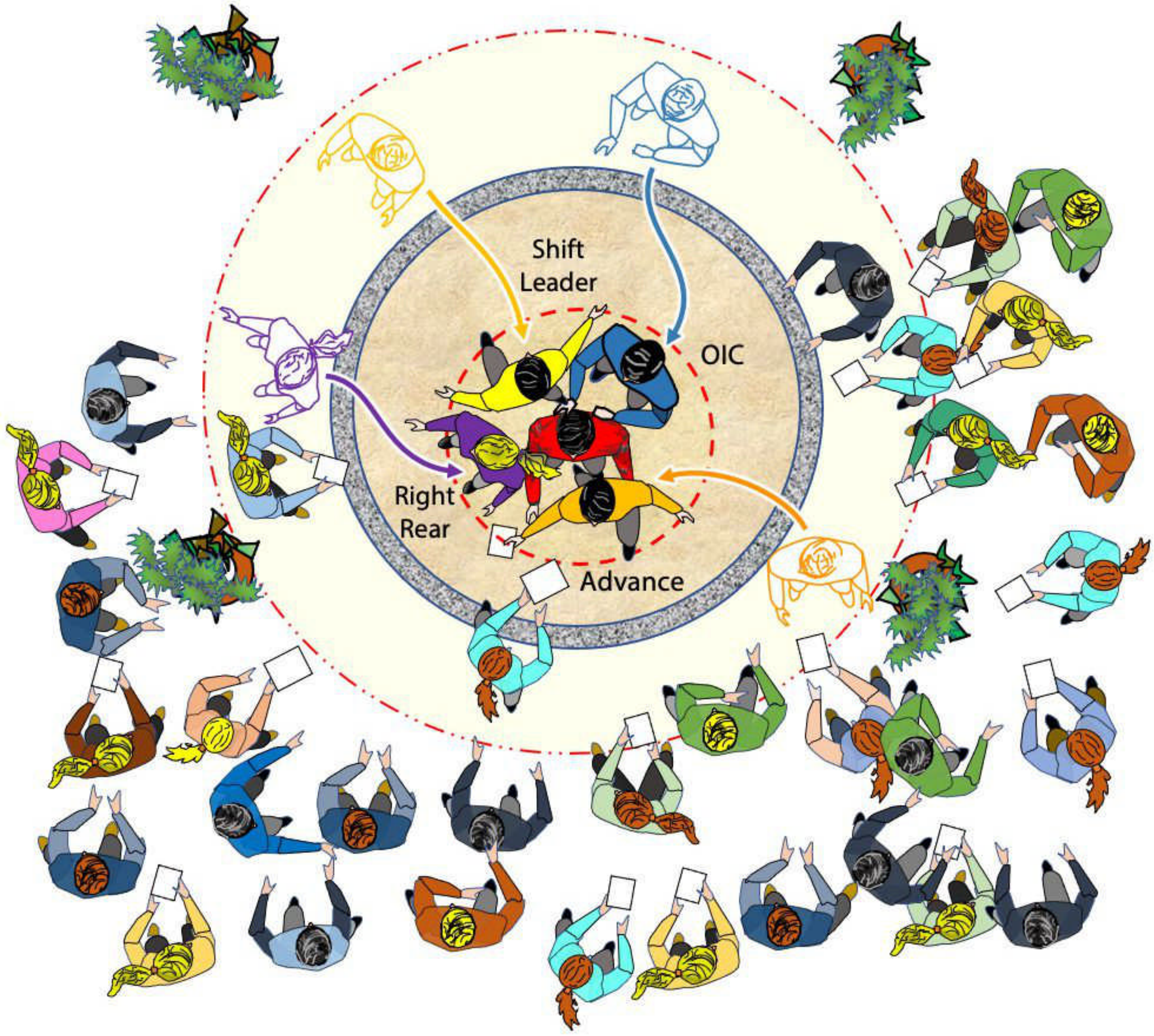
A four-person detail offers better protection and a number of different positioning options depending on the situation and environment. The OIC will generally position behind the VIP while the Advance and SL will position on either side. The RR can sometimes position further forward to monitor the crowd, or augment rear security with the OIC. The decision of where to deploy the RR will depend on the most likely threats. All detail members must adjust position to ensure they can reach the VIP in time and at the proper angle to intercept an attack. All detail members must continuously monitor the mood of the crowd during the speaking event, looking for any sign of a potential problem or incident.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 2: Form Protective Ring Around the VIP

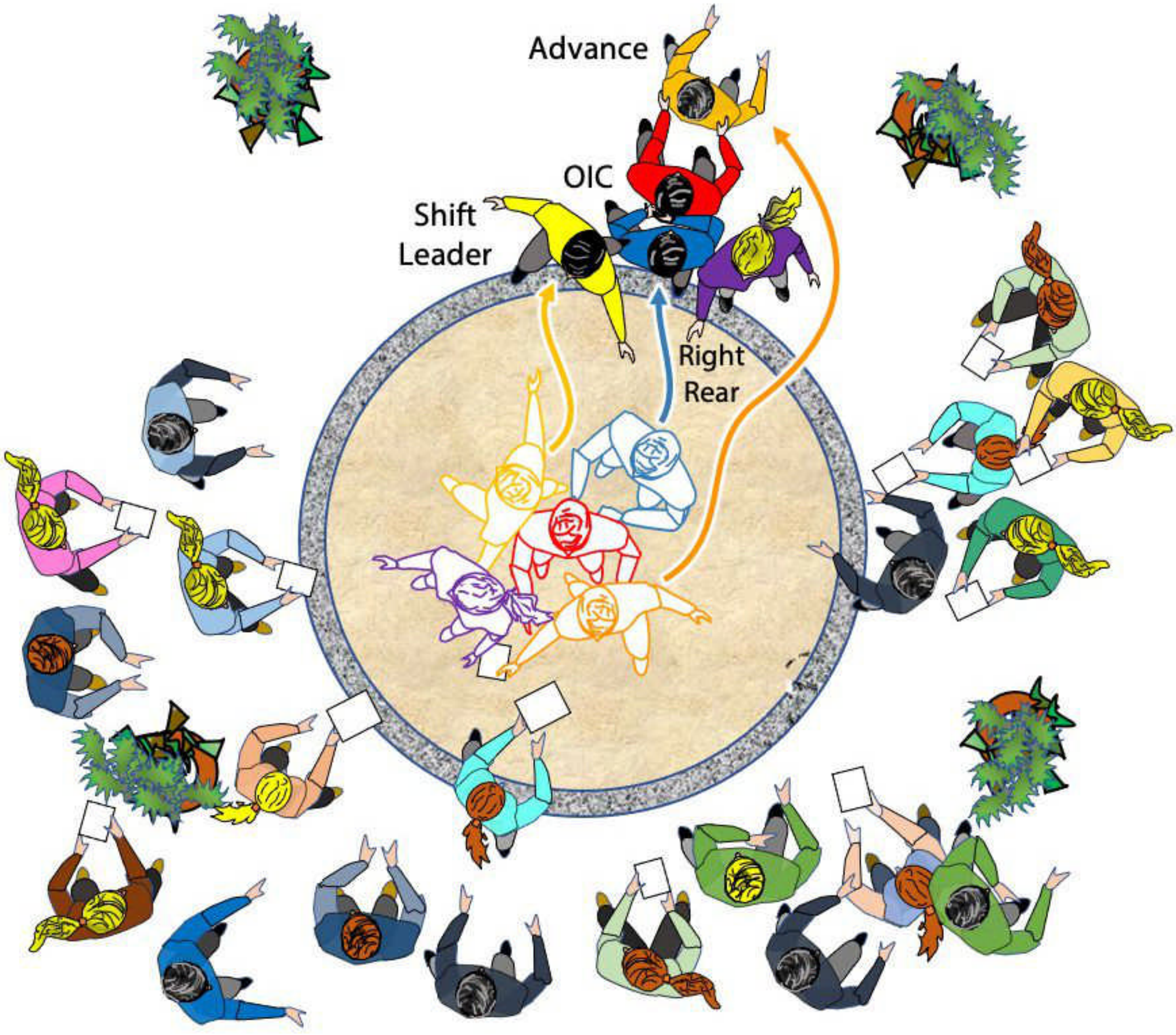
As soon as any detail member identifies someone within the crowd who is starting to get unruly or begins to move towards the VIP's extended security circle, all detail members will quickly move to the VIP and form a protective ring. Good timing and the proper intercept angle are essential to get to the VIP before an attack occurs.



EVENT ATTACK RESPONSE: FOUR-PERSON ESCORT

STEP 3: Evacuate the VIP

Once the threat is taken care of and the VIP is shielded, the detail will quickly evacuate the VIP away from danger to the nearest safe haven. It is critical for the detail to break contact and not get decisively engaged with any of the attackers unless it is absolutely necessary. Ideally, the Advance will have identified and continued to monitor pre-planned escape routes to ensure a safe evacuation. The Advance will lead the VIP and detail to safety while the OIC controls the VIP. In most cases it will be helpful for the SL and RR to focus on rear security, preventing attackers from pursuing the detail.



FURTHER TRAINING

Courses and Resources

This manual provides an overview of venue close protection operations. However, the manual leaves many areas unexplored especially when it comes to other elements of VIP protection including mobile security and site security. There are a variety of other Special Tactics manuals, both current and in production, that are designed to complement this manual. For more information on these manuals, please visit **www.specialtactics.me.**

Every Special Tactics manual has a companion online course. If you cannot find the online course associated with your manual that means it is still in production and has not yet been released. Visit our website to explore our growing selection of online courses. Online courses compliment the material covered in the manual and present knowledge and information in a variety of multimedia formats including interactive presentations, animations, videos and podcasts. All online courses also include interactive quizzes, tests and a serial-numbered completion certificate.

Finally, Special Tactics also offers in-person training. For information about upcoming courses or to request a custom course at your location please contact us on our website. If you have any other questions, comments or suggestions regarding this manual, the Special Tactics staff welcomes you to contact us on our website at **www.specialtactics.me**. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you found this manual worthwhile. Thank you for keeping our communities safe.